

Wabash Plain Dealer

WEDNESDAY,
MAY 12, 2021

\$3

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Tomorrow's weather **64** | **42** 



Pulse
of Wabash

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Second Harvest to hold a tailgate food distributions

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 26 at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15; and noon Wednesday, May 12 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester. For more information,

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Shelly Leifer named Indiana State Teacher of the Year

MCS business teacher honored at a special ceremony

By **ROB BURGESS**
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Last week, Manchester Junior/Senior High School business teacher Shelly Leifer was named Indiana State Teacher of the Year by the Indiana Small and Rural Schools Association (ISR-SA).

The award was made public during a special school-wide program on the afternoon Tuesday, May 4 by Man-

chester Community Schools (MCS) superintendent Teresa Gremaux, Indiana Farm Bureau senior director Katrina Hall and ISRSA executive director Chris Lagoni.

In March, Leifer was nominated by her colleagues and selected as MCS Teacher of the Year, said principal Jon Lippe. She then represented MCS at the state level.

Leifer has been teaching business, accounting, marketing, business operations and technology, and has been in charge of the school's work-based

See **TEACHER**, page A2



Provided photo

Pictured left to right are: MCS superintendent Teresa Gremaux, Shelly Leifer, Indiana Farm Bureau senior director Katrina Hall and Indiana Small and Rural Schools Association executive director Chris Lagoni.

Take a 'Wedding Walk'



Provided photo

This "Wedding Walk" will be hosted by Wed Wabash and is scheduled from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 16 in downtown Wabash.

Sunday's Wed Wabash 'walking bridal show' to take over downtown

By **ROB BURGESS**
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

If planning a wedding is on your to-do list in 2021, this weekend's "Wedding Walk" is for you.

This "walking bridal show" will be hosted by Wed Wabash and is scheduled from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 16 in downtown Wabash, said Ellen's Bridal & Dress Boutique owner Lisa Downs.

"Think of an outdoor, walkable bridal show that will be a fun and unique way to see up to 20 different and unique vendors of

wedding-related products while comfortably maintaining social distancing guidelines," said Downs.

Downs said that despite disruptions caused by the pandemic, "there is a lot of buzz" about the event.

"We think it is a great way to honor COVID restrictions and still have a bridal show," said Downs.

Downs said the walk starts for everyone by picking up their "passports" at Ellen's Bridal & Dress Boutique, 45 W. Market St., and ends 15 stops later.

"Engaged couples and their guests will have an

opportunity to walk historic Wabash, tour venues for weddings, receptions and parties, and meet with suppliers who can provide every wedding-related product and service imaginable," said Downs.

Wed Wabash was launched by a group of local vendors at the start of February. The website gathers together vendors including gowns, gentleman's attire, alterations, venue, transportation, beauty, catering, dining, floral, accommodations, entertainment, photography and videography.

Downs said the seed of

Wed Wabash was planted by "Small Business Revolution," which filmed a season in 2017 in Wabash and encouraged local businesses to market themselves as a wedding destination town.

"Wed Wabash exists to promote the city of Wabash as the perfect destination for all wedding-related celebrations, products and services, and its goal is to bring ease and fun to the wedding planning experience," said Downs.

Members of Wed Wabash

See **WALK**, page A2

Board lowers mask mandate to advisory

Unanimous motion approved at Monday's regular board meeting

By **ROB BURGESS**
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

The mask mandate in Wabash County buildings, which had been set to expire Monday, was changed to a mask advisory.

The unanimous vote was taken during Monday's regular Wabash County Board of Commissioners meeting.

The item was brought before the commissioners by Wabash County coordinator and human resources department director Jim Dils.

After the meeting, Dils said the change would become effective Tuesday.

"Although the wearing of some type of face covering is no longer required, it is still recommended, especially where no barrier is present or if a distance of 6 feet cannot be maintained between individuals," said Dils. "The regular practices of washing hands, using hand sanitizer and disinfecting common areas should also be continued."

Even as the state's mask mandate ended last month, many local libraries, schools and others had opted to continue mask requirements at their facilities. Gov. Eric Holcomb announced this change would take effect Tuesday, April 6. Face coverings will remain mandatory in all state buildings and facilities and all vaccination and COVID testing sites until further notice. K-12 schools will continue under current requirements through the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. Local governments, private businesses and other entities may institute more stringent guidelines.

To that end, Wabash County Board of Commissioners chairman Jeff D. Dawes said at their Monday, April 6 regular meeting that they would continue to follow the previous mandate. That mandate was allowed to expire Monday.

Meanwhile, Mayor Scott Long said on Monday, April 6 that he supported Holcomb's decision, but that caution was still warranted. On the same day, local hospitals including Parkview Health and Lutheran Health Network said they would continue to require masks in their facilities,

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Local group distributes flowers to remember those who served

American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit No. 402 is passing out poppies this month

By **ROB BURGESS**
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

If you see people passing out flowers around the area this month, they're not just celebrating spring, they're doing it for a larger purpose.

May is Poppy Month for the American Legion Auxil-

iary (ALA) Unit No. 402 said secretary and public relations manager Tina James on Tuesday.

"The Auxiliary promotes the poppy as a symbol of the sacrifices our military have made, a symbol to open people's hearts and inspire them to donate," said James.

James said Poppy Day is celebrated in countries around the world, but the American Legion brought the celebration to the United States by asking Congress to designate the Friday before Memorial Day, as National Poppy Day.

"On the Friday before Memorial Day, wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nation's uniform," said James. To help promote this cele-

bration, during May, the ALA Unit No. 402 will be passing out our poppies at various locations in North Manchester, Laketon, Urbana and Silver Lake.

"So if you see our members passing out poppies, be sure to get one and wear it with pride to show support for our veterans who gave so much of themselves for our freedom," said James.

James said "due to the pan-

demic" they don't have exact dates, times or locations, but that the flower distribution will be on a business-by-business basis.

James said after World War I, the poppy flourished in Europe.

"Scientists attributed the growth to soils in France and Belgium becoming enriched with lime from the rubble

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Wabash VFW Post No. 286 plans tenderloin dinner

The Wabash Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post No. 286 has planned a tenderloin dinner from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, May 14 at 3678 W. Old 24, according to Dan Ford. The menu will include hand-breaded tenderloin, French fries and a choice of coleslaw or pasta salad. The cost is \$9 per person. It will be open to the public.

STATE BRIEFS

Carryout will be available. For more information, call 260-563-2463.

‘Magical Melodies’ concert features LA operatic soprano, tenor

The Manchester Symphony Orchestra and Manchester University Department of Music will present “Magical Melodies” at 7 p.m. Friday, May 14 at the Manchester Junior-Senior High School Per-

forming Arts Center, 1 Squire Drive, North Manchester, according to a press release. The concert includes songs and arias and features operatic guest artists-in-residence Jamie Chamberlain, soprano, and Nathan Granner, tenor. They come to Manchester from Los Angeles and Long Beach opera companies. They will be assisted by MU Assistant Professor of Music Pamela Haynes on piano. Admission is free. Masks and social distancing are required at all times.

MASKS

From page A1

despite the lifting of the mandate. Also on Monday, April 6, Manchester University assistant director of media relations Anne Gregory said they would continue to require masks at both their North Manchester and Fort Wayne campuses. During a special meeting on Tuesday, April 13, North Manchester Town Council president Alan Miracle presented an item to make masks mandatory for employees in the town building. Before the council voted unanimously in favor of the measure, Miracle said they would continue to follow Wabash County’s lead on the matter, and follow the extension of their mask mandate to at least Monday, May 10.

On Friday, April 9, North Manchester Public Library (NMPL) Director Diane Randall said they would also continue their mask requirements. During its regular board meeting on Tuesday, April 20, Wabash Carnegie Public Library (WCPL) director Ware Wimberly said they would also be maintaining their mask mandate as a “precautionary” measure.

Wabash County’s change from a mask mandate to a mask advisory comes as COVID-19 cases have been slowly rising both locally and statewide.

Last month, a lower number of cases has pushed Wabash County’s COVID-19 advisory level from the ISDH from yellow, the second-lowest level, to blue, the lowest level, during their weekly dashboard update. Though now in the blue, Wabash County’s positive rating is up slightly, and nearly every other neighboring county has moved back to yellow status. In addition, on Saturday, April 17, the ISDH reported the 78th confirmed COVID-19 death in Wabash County, and on Friday, May 7, the ISDH reported the 79th

local confirmed COVID-19 death. On Tuesday, the ISDH announced that 687 additional Hoosiers have been diagnosed with COVID-19 through testing at state and private laboratories. That brings to 730,969 the number of Indiana residents now known to have had the novel coronavirus following corrections to the previous day’s dashboard. To date, 13,018 Hoosiers are confirmed to have died from COVID-19, an increase of 15 from the previous day. Another 416 probable deaths have been reported to date based on clinical diagnoses in patients for whom no positive test is on record. A total of 3,427,454 unique individuals have been tested in Indiana, up from 3,424,578 on Monday. A total of 10,050,352 tests, including repeat tests for unique individuals, have been reported to the state Department of Health since Feb. 26, 2020.

To find testing sites around the state, visit www.coronavirus.in.gov and click on the COVID-19 testing information link. Hoosiers age 16 and older can receive a COVID-19 vaccine. To find a vaccination clinic near you, visit <https://ourshot.in.gov> or call 211 if you do not have access to a computer or require assistance.

Appointments and walk-ups are welcome at the former Roosevelt High School in Gary, which is offering both the Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer vaccines. The Gary clinic is offering vaccinations from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. CDT at 2401 Harrison St., Gary, IN 46407. Free transportation to and from the site is available through the Gary Public Transportation Corporation (GPTC) and a partnership between IU Health and Lyft. Language interpretation and support for those with disabilities, hearing or vision impairments are also available onsite. Mobile vaccination clinics

will be held this week on the following schedule:

- 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Sunday at the INDYCAR parking lot, 4551 W. 16th St., Indianapolis. Pfizer and Moderna will be available, but Moderna doses are second doses for people previously vaccinated at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.
- 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Saturday at the Center Lake Pavilion, 119 E. Canal St., Warsaw. Only Pfizer will be available at this location.
- 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Tolson Center, 1320 Benham Ave., Elkhart.
- 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Thursday at Community Action of Southern Indiana, 201 E. 15th St., Jeffersonville. Only Moderna will be available at this location.
- 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Tipton County Fairgrounds, 1200 S. Main St., Tipton.
- 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the McMillen Park, 3901 Abbott St., Fort Wayne.
- 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Thursday at Hobart High School, 2211 E. 10th St., Hobart. Only Johnson & Johnson will be available at this location.

Hoosiers can obtain a vaccine without an appointment at participating clinics. To find vaccination sites, visit <https://ourshot.in.gov>. Patients with an appointment at a state-hosted public vaccination site can get a free UBER ride. Call 2-1-1 or 866-211-9966 to receive a voucher to cover the cost of an Uber ride to and from your vaccination appointments.

As of Tuesday, a total of 4,618,946 doses have been administered in Indiana. This includes 2,451,687 first doses and 2,167,259 individuals who are fully vaccinated. The fully vaccinated number represents individuals who have received a second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines and those who received the single Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

support the future of veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with medical and financial needs. Millions of American Legion Auxiliary poppies are distributed annually by ALA units, raising money for veterans, active-duty service members and their families. “Meeting the continuing needs of our veterans should be the concern of every American who values his or her freedom,” said James.

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funeral of a friend and fellow soldier Alexis Helmer, who died during the Second Battle of Ypres. James said on Sept. 27, 1920, the poppy became the official flower of the American Legion to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died during the war. In 1924, the distribution of poppies became a national program of The American Legion. Led by the ALA, each year members of The American Legion Family distribute poppies with a request that the person receiving the flower donate to

POPPIES

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left by the war,” said James. “From the dirt and mud grew a beautiful red poppy.” James said the red poppy came to symbolize the bloodshed during battle following the publication of the wartime poem “In Flanders Fields” by a Canadian physician and Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, M.D. while serving on the front lines. He was inspired to write it on May 3, 1915, after presiding over the

5-Day Weather Summary

 Wednesday Sunny 62 / 38	 Thursday Partly Cloudy 64 / 42	 Friday Partly Cloudy 68 / 45	 Saturday Mostly Cloudy 70 / 50	 Sunday Few Showers 69 / 55
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Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 8:48 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 6:30 a.m.

 First 5/19	 Full 5/26	 Last 6/2	 New 6/10
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Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see sunny skies, high of 62°, humidity of 38%. North northeast wind 6 to 11 mph. Expect clear skies tonight, overnight low of 38°. North northeast wind 2 to 9 mph. Thursday, skies will be partly cloudy, high of 65°, humidity of 33%. East northeast wind 2 to 7 mph.



Provided photos

The award was made public during a special school-wide program on the afternoon Tuesday, May 4.

TEACHER

From page A1

learning program for the last eight years. “During this time she has grown her program by offering students authentic entrepreneurial ventures, teaching employability skills and encouraging career exploration,” said Lippe. “Her guidance has led to the creation of The Bean, a student-run coffee shop open throughout the school day.”

Lippe said Leifer’s classes have also created and continue to manage an in-school store, Sammy’s Store – Sammy being the school mascot – that sells a variety of school spirit items as well as student-created products.

On Friday, Leifer offered some advice for new teachers about how to better connect with students.

“Listen more than you talk,” said Leifer. “Don’t assume you know what students are going through. Understand that students will have bad days and it is not personal. Reach out to students if they seem like they need it. Just asking if a student is OK goes a long way. Try to find something you have in common with each one of your students. Be yourself, students don’t expect you to be perfect. Most of all, have fun with your kiddos. They are the most fun people I have ever worked with.”

Leifer said she “honestly never considered going into teaching” when she was in high school “so I can’t say that a particular teacher inspired me to be a teacher.” “However, since I have



This summer, Leifer will represent Indiana in the National Rural Education Association Teacher of the Year Competition.

started teaching I am inspired by those that I work with every day, both in and out of my school district,” said Leifer. “My biggest cheerleader has been Sue Gnagy, our curriculum director. Her can-do attitude is infectious.”

Lippe said Leifer actively works to find internships and job placements for seniors in areas of potential career interests to receive real-world experiences.

“Mrs. Leifer productively supports and collaborates with her colleagues offering sound advice which has undoubtedly transformed her

instruction and support,” said Lippe. “She takes the time to build a sense of community in her learning environment. Shelly is a lifelong learner. She proactively seeks out opportunities to enhance her instructional skills. Mrs. Leifer is an exceptional educator that impacts your life like no other.”

This summer, Leifer will represent Indiana in the National Rural Education Association Teacher of the Year Competition.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

WALK

From page A1

and one guest may walk in this weekend’s event

for free. For others, tickets are \$5 per person and may be obtained by calling 260-563-6565 or emailing hello@wedwabash.com. For more information,

visit www.wedwabash.com.

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Obituaries

You got to pray just to make it today

President Joseph Biden mentions his Catholic faith frequently. We’ve heard him cite both Pope and Saint Francis. At his inaugura-

Kathryn Lopez



tion, he ran through a litany of promises about love, healing and decency, and other things no one could object to, prefaced by: “Before God and all of you I give you my word.” But when it came time for his first proclamation for a National Day of Prayer, his administration chose to leave God out of it.

There was mention of racial justice and climate change, but never the three-letter word that acknowledges that there is something more that our country is founded on – and is the reason we even exist. Quoting the late Rep. John Lewis, Biden called people “the most dynamic link to the divine on this planet.” In this framework, the National Day of Prayer then, is about us, not God.

As churches were closed

for worship during the COVID-19 lockdowns, the priests and other ministers who kept serving are the uncelebrated heroes – essential workers – of the pandemic. They went into hospitals. They checked on parishioners. They did everything they were allowed to do to safely give people access to Confession and the Eucharist. After what we as a nation have been through, we should be celebrating prayers, churches and God, not ignoring them or watering them down.

When Pope Benedict XVI, now pope emeritus, was head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican, it issued a letter on what prayer is. “(P)roperly speaking,” it is “a personal, intimate, and profound dialogue between man and God. ... This communion, based on Baptism and the Eucharist, source and summit of the life of the Church, implies an attitude of conversion, a flight from ‘self’ to the ‘You’ of God.”

That’s powerful stuff – though obviously Christian, and in a Catholic context. But doesn’t all prayer need to include that kind of hu-

mility? And an acknowledgment that our lives are not our own? Isn’t that one of the lessons of the past year? We are mutually vulnerable, and we can turn to God for meaning and direction.

But much of Biden’s prayer proclamation was all about us, our comfort and our agendas. This is not a Republican vs. Democrat kind of a thing; practical atheism is a plague. President George W. Bush had the right idea in his 2016 proclamation, citing George Washington: “It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and to humbly implore His protection and favor.” Now there’s a posture that will get us outside of our heads and false comforts.

Here, for what it’s worth, is what Mother Teresa said about prayer: “Prayer, to be fruitful, must come from the heart and must be able to touch the heart of God. See how Jesus taught His disciples to pray. Call God your Father; praise and glorify his name. Do His will as the saints do it in heaven; ask for daily bread, spiritual and

temporal; ask for forgiveness of your own sins and that you may forgive others, and also for the grace not to give in to temptations and for the final grace to be delivered from the evil that is in us and around us.”

Humility is key to prayer. A White House proclamation isn’t a theological treatise, but I do wonder if this year’s betrays our warped view of religion. Prayer isn’t about us so much as it is about God. It’s not about our agendas. It’s an acknowledgement that there is so much more to our day and our lives than what is on our calendars.

If we got the National Day of Prayer wrong, today is another day. And always remember the Sabbath. It could change our lives and the world. It’s not all about us; God reorients things when we give Him time.

Kathryn Jean Lopez is senior fellow at the National Review Institute, editor-at-large of National Review magazine and author of the new book “A Year With the Mystics: Visionary Wisdom for Daily Living.” She is also chair of Cardinal Dolan’s pro-life commission in New York. She can be contacted at klopez@nationalreview.com.

Remains ID’d of 2 brothers killed at Pearl Harbor

La PORTE (AP) — The remains of two Indiana brothers who were killed in the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor have been identified by U.S. military scientists.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency said Monday it had identified the remains of Navy Fire

Controlman 2nd Class Harold F. Trapp, 24, and Navy Electrician’s Mate 3rd Class William H. Trapp, 23.

The brothers from La Porte in northern Indiana were assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma on Dec. 7, 1941, when it was attacked by Japanese aircraft while moored at Pearl Harbor.

The USS Oklahoma capsized after sustaining multiple torpedo hits and 429 crewmen were killed, including the Trapp brothers.

In 2015, the remains of unidentified USS Oklahoma servicemen were exhumed from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. The DPPA said

military scientists identified the Trapp brothers’ remains last November after analyzing dental, anthropological and genetic evidence.

The Trapp brothers will be reburied in Honolulu on June 15, at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific nearly 80 years after their deaths.

PULSE

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visit www.curehunger.org, classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182 or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

WACT fall musical auditions planned

The Wabash Area Community Theater’s (WACT) fall musical production, “Sister Act,” will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, May 14, and 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 15, at Wabash Christian Church, 110 W. Hill St. Callbacks, and those who can’t make it to auditions over the weekend, are scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, May 17, at the church.

North Manchester Tox-Away Day announced

North Manchester’s Tox-Away Day will be from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 15 at the Wabash County Solid Waste Management District. The gates will close “promptly” at 1 p.m.

Salamonie Lake workdays continue throughout summer

Salamonie Lake’s Upper Wabash Interpretive Services, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews, will host a variety of volunteer work-related activities. Check-in and instructions will be available at the Interpretive and Nature Center. The volunteer workdays will continue throughout the summer at 9 a.m. Monday, May 17; 9 a.m. Monday, June 21; 9 a.m. Monday, July 26; 9 a.m. Monday, Aug. 16; and 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 25. For more information, visit 260-468-2127.

Wabash County Animal Shelter partnership to pair emerging readers with dogs, cats

The local Literacy for Companionship program will be held on the third Thursday of each month, with the next one scheduled for May 20 at the Wabash County Animal Shelter, 810 Manchester Ave. The time will be split into 30-minute shifts from 4 to 6 p.m., with four children scheduled

per session. There is no cost for the program and the parents or guardians will be with the children at all times. For more information, call 260-563-3511.

Manchester University sets in-person graduation ceremonies

Several small, in-person ceremonies are scheduled for Saturday, May 22 in Cordier Auditorium on the North Manchester campus. Graduate and Professional ceremony are at 9 a.m. for Doctor of Pharmacy, Master of Athletic Training, Master of Pharmacogenomics, and the dual degree in pharmacy and pharmacogenomics (Pharm.D. and MS in Pgx). Undergraduate and Master of Accountancy (M.Acct.) ceremonies are in this order: 11:30 a.m. Honors Program, College of Arts and Humanities, M.Acct. and Gilbert College of Business; 2:30 p.m. College of Pharmacy, Natural and Health Sciences; and 4:30 p.m. College of Education and Social Sciences.

Honeywell Summer Arts Camps announced for grades K-12

Registration is open for Honeywell Summer Theatre and Visual Art Camps for students in grades K-12, which begin Monday, June 7, and offer in-person, fully immersive programs led by art and theater teachers and professionals. The two-week Theatre Camps for grades K-5 will take place in the afternoon from Monday, June 7 through Friday, June 18. The three-week Theatre Camps for sixth through 12th grades will take place in the afternoon from Monday, June 7 through Friday, June 25. The one-week Visual Art Camps will take place in the morning from Monday, June 7 through Friday, June 11. Registration is \$75 for art and \$90 for theatre. Financial assistance is available. For more information, visit HoneywellArts.org/camp or call 260-563-1102.

WACCY Golf Outing hitting the greens June 9

Registration is now open

for Grow Wabash County’s annual WACCY Golf Outing on Wednesday, June 9 at the Honeywell Golf Course, 3360 Niccum Road. Registration is \$360 per four-person team, which includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, access to a catered lunch from Miller’s Merry Manor and the chance to win a whole assortment of games and prizes. This year’s outing will offer a morning session – with a 7:30 a.m. start – and afternoon – with a 1 p.m. start – flights on a first-come, first-serve basis. There will be a limit of 18 teams per flight. For more information, visit www.growwabashcounty.com/waccy2021, email marketing@growwabashcounty.com or call 260-563-5258.

Pancake Day planned for June 12

The Wabash Kiwanis Club’s Pancake Day 2021 event will take place from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 12 at the newly renovated Bruce Ingraham building at the Wabash County Fairgrounds, located just off of Gillen Avenue. Pancakes, with or without blueberries, will be available, along with sausages and drinks. Tickets will be \$8 at the door and \$7 in advance for adults 13 years and older and \$5 at the door and \$4 in advance for children ages 6 to 12 years. Admission for the event will be free for children 5 years and younger. Sponsorship opportunities for businesses for Pancake Day are available by email at donnasiders@hotmail.com or by calling 260-571-1892. Sponsors would receive complimentary tickets to the event and on-site recognition in exchange for their support for only \$150.

Salamonie to hold Summer Forest Camp

Salamonie Lake will be hosting “a unique outdoor day camp” from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday, June 28 to Friday, July 2 at Upper Wabash Interpretive Services, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Children ages 7 to 13 are welcome. Limited space is available. The cost per child is \$60 and \$55 for each additional sibling. Register and pay by Monday, June 14 and save \$10 per child. For more information and registration, call 260-468-2127.

Bill Eugene Dillon

Sept. 16, 1961 – May 6, 2021



Bill Eugene Dillon, 59, of Lagro, Indiana, died 11:42 pm, Thursday, May 6, 2021, at Parkview Wabash Hospital. He was born on Sept. 16, 1961, in Wabash, to Robert and Loretta (Hunt) Dillon.

Bill married Cathy McCarty in Wabash on June 8, 2014. He was a truck driver for E&B Paving several years, and a volunteer fire fighter for Lagro Township Fire Department. Bill was a member of the Wabash Eagles Lodge #549, Lagro American Legion Post 248, and the Legion Riders. He was a little league coach in Lagro for 10 years and enjoyed hunting, riding motorcycles, and tinkering on motorcycles.

He is survived by his wife, Cathy Dillon of Lagro, four children, Natasha (Larry) Whitney of Wabash, Douglas Dillon of Mentone, Indiana, Robert (Leigha Carey) Dillon of Wabash, and Christopher (Carrie) Arnett of Fort Mitchell, Alabama; five grandchildren, Olivia Dillon, Kensleigh Whitney, and Octavia Dillon, all of Wabash, Adalynn Arnett and Lincoln Arnett, both of Fort Mitchell; mother, Loretta Dillon of Wabash; nine sisters and brothers, Faye (John) Dunnagan of Peru, Indiana, Ronald “Ronnie” (Dawn Wiist) Dillon of Lagro, Kim (Keith) Snyder of Urbana, Indiana, Jeff (Fern) Dillon of Silver Lake, Indiana, Kelly

(Randy) Reahard of Lagro, Michele Dillon of Wabash, Lori (Dave) Harrell of LaFontaine, Indiana, Brad (Emily) Dillon of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Heather Daugherty of Wabash; and his long-time friend, Sam Norwood of Wabash. He was preceded in death by his father, Robert E. Dillon.

Funeral services will be 10:30 am, Friday, May 14, 2021, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, with Pastor Tim Prater officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash. Friends may call 4-8 pm Thursday, at the funeral home.

Preferred memorial is Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana, 6316 Mutual Drive, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825.

The memorial guest book for Bill may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Madelynne ‘Lynne’ Wilcox

Madelynne “Lynne” Wilcox, 71, Roanoke, Indiana, passed away May 5, 2021 at Peabody Healthcare Center in North Manchester, Indiana. The loving memory of Madelynne “Lynne” Wilcox will be forever cherished by her sister, Patti (Bob) Seidel, Chicago, Illinois; nephews, Jim (Heather) Wilcox, Roanoke, Indiana, Brian

(Amanda) Wilcox, Berrien Springs, Michigan, Mathew (Melissa) DiMarzio, Pingree Grove, Illinois, and Mike DiMarzio, Loves Park, Illinois. Private services for Madelynne “Lynne” Wilcox will be held at a later date. The family of Madelynne “Lynne” Wilcox has entrusted McKee Mortuary with final arrangements.

Gene Robert Kaufman

Gene Robert Kaufman, 85, of Andrews, passed away on Friday, May 7, 2021 at Parkview Regional Medical Center.

A celebration of life will be held for both Gene and Joby at 5 p.m. on Friday, May 14, 2021, at the Wabash Friends Church, 3563 South State Road 13, Wabash, Indiana 46992, with

Pastor David Phillips officiating.

Calling hours for friends and family will start at 2 p.m. and go until the time of the Celebration of Life at Wabash Friends Church.

McDonald Funeral Homes, 231 Falls Avenue, Wabash, Indiana 46992, has been entrusted with Gene Kaufman’s arrangements.

Alan ‘Pete’ Stellar Sr

March 19, 1954 – May 8, 2021

Alan “Pete” Stellar Sr., 67, North Manchester, died May 8, 2021. Born in Huntington, Indiana, on March 19, 1954, Pete was the son of Sharon and Betty (Burkhart) Stellar.

Pete is survived by his son, Alan “Pete” Stellar Jr.; daughter, Sharon (Corey) Graham; brothers, William (Sandy) Stellar and Donald (Mary) Stellar; brother-in-

law, Jackie North; and five grandchildren.

Visitation Wednesday, May 12, 2021 from 4-7 p.m. at McKee Mortuary, 1401 S.R. 114 West, North Manchester. Funeral services will begin Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 12 noon with calling at 11 a.m. at McKee Mortuary. Final arrangements are entrusted to McKee Mortuary.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 402 holds its monthly meeting

The next 5th District meeting will be at 3 p.m. May 15 in Dunkirk

STAFF REPORT

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit No. 402 held its monthly meeting Tuesday, May 4, according to secretary and public relations manager Tina James.

Eight members attended the meeting.

It was reported that the unit scholarship went to Kelsie Metzger and the 5th District Scholarship went to Erica Ortiz. The department junior conference will be Thursday, June 10, with two of the junior members being department junior officers.

The month of May is Poppy Month, and plans for passing out poppies have been made.

The auxiliary planned its

annual Memorial Day service to be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 30 at Laketon Cemetery. They also planned their food booth at the upcoming Annual Car Show on Monday, May 31 in Laketon.

Officers for the upcoming 2021-2022 year were nominated and elected as follows: president Thelma Butler; vice president Amelia Bradley; secretary Tina James; treasurer Becky Warmuth; chaplain John Joy; historian Tina James; parliamentarian Mary Rohrer; and executive committee Linda Torpy, Miriam Linkenhoker and Shirley Price.

James said they wished a special happy birthday on Saturday, May 29 to their unit president and past department president Thelma Butler.

The next 5th District meeting will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 15 in Dunkirk.

Younger adolescents ready to receive vaccine

By **HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH, KATHLEEN FOODY and SOPHIA TAREEN**
Associated Press

MISSION, Kan. — Parents, schools and vaccine clinics rushed to begin inoculating younger adolescents Tuesday after U.S. regulators endorsed Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine for children as young as 12, a decision seen as a breakthrough in allowing classroom instruction to resume safely around the country.

A handful of cities started offering shots to children ages 12 to 15 less than a day after the Food and Drug Administration gave the vaccine emergency use authorization for that age group. Most communities were waiting for a federal advisory committee that meets Wednesday to sign off on the move, while anxious families called clinics and pharmacies to ask about the soonest appointments.

In Atlanta, 12-year-old Jane Ellen Norman got her first dose of the Pfizer vaccine at Mercedes-Benz Stadium on Tuesday morning. The girl said she looked forward to having “a little bit more freedom.”

Her mother, English Norman, said she also booked an

appointment for her 14-year-old son immediately after learning that the FDA on Monday had declared the vaccine safe for the nearly 17 million 12- to 15-year-olds in the U.S. Now, the entire family – including Norman’s husband, a physician, and their 17-year-old son – has begun the vaccination process.

“We’re five for five,” the 52-year-old artist said.

Most COVID-19 vaccines worldwide have been authorized for adults. Pfizer’s vaccine is being used in multiple countries for teens as young as 16, and Canada recently became the first to expand use to children 12 and up. Parents, school administrators and public health officials elsewhere have eagerly awaited approval for the shot to be made available to more young people.

The official sign-off on the vaccine’s use in the 12-15 age group will not occur until at least Wednesday, when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention committee meets. Local governments that began offering shots right away viewed the FDA decision on Monday as enough of a green light to start the process.

“Under all relevant legal authority, once the FDA

gives approval, a prescriber is permitted to prescribe the vaccine,” Kelly Cofrancisco, a spokesperson for Pennsylvania’s Montgomery County, said as shots for residents 12 and up started Tuesday.

In the Kansas City area, Children’s Mercy Hospital has run vaccine clinics for 16- to 21-year-olds since last month and plans to expand them to cover the younger ages soon. Dr. Ryan McDonough, a pediatrician who oversees the COVID-19 vaccine clinics, said he has been deluged with calls from patients and texts from friends and relatives wanting to sign up their kids.

“It is about getting back to normal,” McDonough said. “It is about getting their kid in school five days a week. It is about going to see grandma and grandpa. It is about getting back to sports. It is all about normalcy, and people just want to get back to pre-pandemic life.”

The Iowa-based grocery store chain Hy-Vee, which has 278 stores in eight Midwestern states, was looking to begin offering the vaccine to younger adolescents as soon as Thursday. Interest has been strong among parents, who deluged stores with calls and emails after the FDA signed

off on the vaccine, Hy-Vee spokesperson Christina Gayman said.

“Some people tried to go ahead and go online and make an appointment,” she said. “But we at this time have let those individuals know, ‘Hey, we cannot vaccinate that age group just yet.’”

Chicago, meanwhile, said it was ready to begin vaccinating people between 12 and 15 but would wait until Thursday to start administering shots. The city’s public health commissioner, Dr. Allison Arwady, noted that the communities with the lowest vaccination rates continue to have the highest numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases and rates of hospitalization and death – even in teens and young adults.

“Help us increase vaccine uptake and get past COVID by bringing your whole family to get vaccinated together,” Arwady urged in a news release.

Fifteen-year-old Elizabeth Goluszka was ready. For more than a year, she and her friends have celebrated birthdays and holidays at a distance. The teenagers left gifts outside each other’s homes as a replacement for the parties they planned and then canceled as the pandemic wore

on. Elizabeth said she also missed dance competitions and chatting with friends over lunch at Batavia High School in Chicago’s western suburbs.

“I’m just so looking forward to getting back to a sort of normal high school experience, like having the homecoming dance and being able to have lunch with friends,” she said.

Dr. Monica Verduzco-Gutierrez said her son, Nicolas, had hoped to be part of the clinical trials for the Pfizer but they were no longer signing up participants by the boy’s 12th birthday. The family relocated this summer to San Antonio when Verduzco-Gutierrez accepted a new job and it’s been difficult for Nicolas to make friends or explore much.

Attending classes in person helped, but there’s not much time to socialize at school. Masks and social distancing don’t make it any easier either, he said, and he’s looking forward to getting vaccinated.

“It will be really nice to be able to say, ‘Hey, want to go get ice cream or something?’” Nicolas said.

The regulators’ decision was good news to education officials in Massachusetts, where all high schools must resume in-person classes five days a week by Monday. Two-thirds

already are doing so.

“I think it is a great opportunity, obviously, to create even more safety in our schools for our students and our staff and getting closer to herd immunity,” said Russell Johnston, senior associate commissioner at the state’s Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. “I think it is really important.”

But not everyone is eager. Polling by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that just 3 in 10 parents of children ages 12 to 15 say they would get their child vaccinated as soon as possible. One-quarter said they would wait a while to see how the vaccine is working.

Indianapolis parent Inna Ekhaus said it was a “no-brainer” for her and her husband to get vaccinated to curb the spread of COVID-19 and to protect themselves. But after doing a risk-benefit analysis, she does not plan to take the couple’s two sons, ages 13 and 10, to get inoculated.

Ekhaus said her boys, who are otherwise healthy, got COVID-19 in October and reported only minor symptoms.

“For the kids, I don’t think the due diligence has been done to show the long-term effects, and children’s bodies are still developing,” said the 38-year-old tech worker.

States push jobless from virus recession to return to work

By **WILSON RING**
Associated Press

STOWE, Vt. — Eduardo Rovetto is hoping the state of Vermont’s reinstated requirement that people who are collecting unemployment benefits must seek work to qualify will help him hire enough staff for his restaurant in the resort town of Stowe.

After more than a year of coronavirus restrictions on his business, Picasso Pizzeria & Lounge, he’s expecting a breakout summer tourism season. But like employers across the country, he’s worried he won’t have enough workers.

“We’ve been getting many excuses as to why not to return,” said Rovetto, who is offering a signing bonus of up to \$600 to try to add 15 to 20 employees who agree to stay through the middle of October. “Obviously, it was a legitimate one with COVID, but, you know, I think that’s getting used less and less now. The vaccines are free; they are out there for anyone.”

Many employers are telling similar stories. Fourteen months after COVID-19 put hundreds of thousands of people out of work, the U.S. economy is rebounding and employers are desperate for workers.

The challenge was highlighted Friday when employers nationwide added 266,000 jobs, far fewer than expected, and businesses reported they couldn’t find people to fill the openings they have to keep up with the rapidly strengthening economic rebound.

To encourage people to return to work, more states are making it harder for people to stay on unemployment. Many blame the easy benefits that followed the pandemic, including what is now a \$300-a-week supplemental federal payment on top of state benefits. The argument is

that people make more money staying home than going back to work.

Several states have begun requiring those receiving unemployment benefits to show they are actively searching for work, and a few will stop providing the additional federal supplement.

It’s not just the hospitality sector that is scrambling to fill positions. Alene Candles, based in Milford, New Hampshire, is looking to fill 1,500 positions for its facility there and another in New Albany, Ohio, to meet demand for the holiday season. Company representatives will be participating in a number of virtual job fairs this month.

“We have had more than 100 positions open since the start of the year, and just recently we increased sign-on bonuses to \$1,200 for hourly positions – in-part because we are competing with an entity that can print its own money – the federal government – and its \$300 per week additional unemployment benefit,” said CEO Rod Harl. “I would love to welcome those searching for work to join our team.”

On Monday, the state of New Hampshire reopened its job centers for the first time since the pandemic hit to help people looking for work, but only a handful showed up in the first few hours at the largest one in Manchester.

Labor experts say the shortage is not just about the \$300 payment. Some unemployed people also have been reluctant to look for work because they fear catching the virus.

Others have found new occupations rather than return to their old jobs. And many women, especially working mothers, have had to leave the workforce to care for children.

The details and the timing of the state-led efforts to get people back to work differ, but they are coming from states

led by both Republicans and Democrats.

In addition to Vermont, states reinstating the work-search requirement include Arizona, Maine, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island and South Carolina. Lawmakers are advancing work-search legislation in Pennsylvania.

“As President Reagan said, the best social program is a job,” Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, a Republican, said when announcing the resumption of the work-search requirement. “This statement rings true today. Unemployment benefits are still available to Arizonans who need them, but now that plenty of jobs are available, those receiving the benefits should be actively looking for work.”

Arkansas, Mississippi, Montana and South Carolina are planning to stop accepting the \$300 benefit.

In announcing last week that unemployed workers will no longer receive the additional benefit beginning June 27, Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte, a Republican, said it was “doing more harm than good.”

Rachel Mata, an area manager for a Fayetteville, North Carolina-based staffing company, said it’s been increasingly difficult to find people for positions since the passage of the latest federal COVID-19 relief bill.

“We get candidates who will mention, ‘Hey, you know, why would I go to work when I get paid more on unemployment to sit at home?’” said Mata.

At a recent job fair, only one candidate showed up, said Mata, whose company, Mega Force Staffing Group Inc., mainly focuses on manufacturing jobs. In other cases, candidates have gone through the staffing company’s onboarding process, only to not show up on their start date.

U.S. schools fight to keep students amid fear of dropout surge

By **HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH**
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — U.S. educators are doing everything they can to track down high school students who stopped showing up to classes and to help them get the credits needed to graduate, amid an anticipated surge in the country’s dropout rate during the coronavirus pandemic.

There isn’t data available yet on how the pandemic has affected the nation’s overall dropout rate – 2019 is the last year for which it is available – and many school officials say it’s too early to know how many students who stopped logging on for distance learning don’t plan to return. But soaring numbers of students who are failing classes or are chronically absent have experts fearing the worst, and schools have been busy tracking down wayward seniors through social media, knocking on their doors, assigning staff to help them make up for lost time and, in some cases, even relaxing graduation requirements.

“When students drop out, they typically look for an out, an opportunity to leave. And this has provided that, unfortunately,” Sandy Addis, chairman of the National Dropout Prevention Center, said recently, referring to the pandemic. His group believes the dropout rate has spiked this year and will remain high for years.

At one high school in Kansas City, Kansas, staff members have made thousands of calls to the families of at-risk students, said Troy Pitsch, who supervises high school principals in the city.

“If we lose a student, it is going to be after kicking and screaming and fighting tooth

and nail for them,” Pitsch said.

Many districts were forgiving last spring when schools shut down abruptly, freezing grades unless students wanted to improve them. That made this year the first for which schools would feel the full effects of the pandemic on student performance and engagement.

The early signs aren’t encouraging. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization warned that the pandemic had put 24 million children worldwide at risk of dropping out of school. And the pandemic’s effects could erase gains the U.S. made in reducing its dropout rate, which fell from 9.3 percent in 2007 to 5.1 percent in 2019, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. Not finishing high school significantly hurts a person’s earning potential, with dropouts bringing home an average of \$150 less per week than graduates, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

To keep students on track, some local governments and school systems have waived certain testing requirements for graduation or changed grading policies so that missed assignments aren’t as damaging. But such leniency carries the risk of watering down academic standards, said Russell Rumberger, a professor emeritus of education at the University of California, Santa Barbara, who has written about dropouts.

“If they let you pass with a D and you don’t have to do very much to do it, maybe technically you are getting a diploma, but you are not getting the same type of diploma you may have gotten prior to the pandemic, when the standards were higher,” he said.

A National Dropout Prevention Center report predicted a doubling or tripling of the number of students who were at risk of falling behind academically and not graduating.

Among them for much of this school year was Jose Solano-Hernandez, a 17-year-old senior at Wyandotte High School in Kansas City, Kansas. In January, when he was at his lowest point following the deaths of one grandparent from COVID-19 and another from cancer in the same week, he estimated that he had missed eight assignments in each of his classes.

“I wouldn’t make my parents proud,” he recalled thinking as he struggled to learn virtually at night while working by day at a mechanic’s shop.

Solano-Hernandez has been slowly chipping away at his backlog of work since his school brought back him and other struggling seniors for extra in-person help more than a month before the rest of the student body returned at the end of March. He said the change brought “relief” and he’s now hopeful he’ll graduate.

Mary Stewart, the school’s principal, said there was “radio silence” from hundreds of students in the fall. But the number who weren’t accounted for shrank to about 40 by the spring after staff hunted down siblings and scrolled through Facebook searching for clues to their whereabouts.

“I went to a house of a young man the day before Thanksgiving and found that he had self-isolated in his room because of a mental health issue,” she said. “That is very common. Whatever happens in the community and in the world, we are a micro-system of that.”

AIDS virus used in gene therapy to fix ‘bubble baby’ disease

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**
AP Chief Medical Writer

A gene therapy that makes use of an unlikely helper, the AIDS virus, gave a working immune system to 48 babies and toddlers who were born without one, doctors reported Tuesday.

Results show that all but two of the 50 children who were given the experimental therapy in a study now have healthy germ-fighting abilities.

“We’re taking what otherwise would have been a fatal disease” and healing most of these children with a single treatment, said study leader Dr. Donald Kohn of UCLA Mattel Children’s Hospital. “They’re basically ‘free

range’ – going to school, doing normal things,” without the worry that any infection could become life-threatening, he said.

The other two children who weren’t helped by the gene therapy later had successful bone marrow transplants. Doctors say it will take longer to know if any of the 50 are cured, but they seem to be well so far.

The children had severe combined immunodeficiency syndrome, or SCID, which is caused by an inherited genetic flaw that keeps the bone marrow from making healthy versions of the blood cells that form the immune system. Without treatment, it often kills in the first year or two of life.

It became known as “bubble boy disease” because of a case in the 1970s involving a Texas boy who lived for 12 years in a protective plastic bubble to isolate him from germs. It’s now called “bubble baby disease” because roughly 20 different gene defects, including some that affect girls as well as boys, can cause it.

A bone marrow transplant from a genetically matched sibling can cure the disorder, but most kids lack a suitable donor and the treatment is risky – the Texas boy died after one.

Patients now are treated with twice-weekly doses of antibiotics and germ-fighting antibodies, but it’s not a permanent solution.

Doctors think gene therapy might be. They remove some of a patient’s blood cells, use a disabled AIDS virus to insert a healthy version of the gene that the kids need, and return the cells through an IV.

Josselyn Kish, now 11 and living in Las Vegas, had it at UCLA when she was 3. As a baby, she suffered rashes, painful shingles and frequent diarrhea, said her mother, Kim Carter. “Day care was calling me a couple times a week to come get her because she was always getting fevers.”

After the gene therapy, “she was better right away,” Carter said. Now, “she rarely, rarely gets sick at all” and has been able to recover whenever she has. That hope extends to

Josselyn’s newest infection – she was just diagnosed with COVID-19 and so far has only very mild symptoms.

In all, 27 children were treated at the Los Angeles hospital, three at the U.S. National Institutes of Health near Washington and 20 at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London. The fact the treatment seems safe across multiple hospitals performing it makes the study “very powerful,” said Dr. Stephen Gottschalk of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis.

He had no role in the new study but he and his colleagues have performed a similar gene therapy on 17 other children with SCID.

“People ask us, is it a cure?

Who knows long term, but at least up to three years, these children are doing well,” Gottschalk said. “The immune function seems stable over time so I think it looks very, very encouraging.”

Results of the UCLA-led study were published Tuesday by the New England Journal of Medicine and presented at an online American Society of Gene & Cell Therapy conference. Grants from U.S. and British government health agencies and the tax-supported California Institute for Regenerative Medicine paid for the work. Kohn is an inventor of the treatment and an adviser to the company now developing it, London-based Orchard Therapeutics.



Provided photo

The Manchester University baseball team honored its senior class on Saturday afternoon as the Spartans hosted the Earlham College Quakers in their regular season finale.

MU honors seniors in regular season finale against Earlham

Spartans earned a split in its HCAC doubleheader

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester University baseball team honored its senior class on Saturday afternoon as the Spartans hosted the Earlham College Quakers in their regular season finale. Manchester earned a split in its Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) doubleheader, defeating EC in Game 1 4-2 before dropping Game 2 12-9. Following Saturday's twin

bill, Manchester honored its senior class of Max Bridgewater, Hunter Freeman, Joe Henschel, Brett Kron, Michael Pinarski, Hunter Seegers, Keegan Stevens and Jacob Van Pelt with an on-field ceremony. **Game 1:** Manchester defeated Earlham 4-2. **Game 2:** Earlham defeated Manchester 12-9. Manchester starter Austin Kresl, from Fort Wayne and Carroll High School, pitched into the seventh inning as the Spartans picked up a 4-2 victory in Game 1. Kresl allowed just two runs in 6.2 innings of work. He struck out eight batters. Senior Keegan Stevens, from Rensse-

laer and Rensselaer Central High School, came out of the Spartan bullpen and struck out four in 2.1 innings of relief. Stevens picked up a big strikeout with the bases loaded to retire the side in the seventh. The Spartans opened the scoring on Saturday with a pair of runs in the bottom of the first inning. Zach White, from Logansport, hit a sac fly to center and Jacob Van Pelt, from Parker City and Delta High School, had an RBI groundout. Manchester extended its lead to 4-0 after scoring single runs in the fourth and fifth innings. Game 2 saw the Quakers

score a trio of runs in the fourth, sixth and eighth innings. Brady Perez, from Rochester, hit a pinch-hit RBI single in the sixth for MU. Jacob Van Pelt connected on a two-run homer to left center in bottom of the seventh while Hunter Seegers, from Westport and South Decatur High School, hit a run scoring double in the eighth. Zach White finished with two RBI in Game 2. Manchester will await its opponent for next weekend's Opening Round of the HCAC Tournament. *Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*

Hooks tosses gem as Spartans earn Friday split at Bluffton

Junior Manchester pitcher threw a complete game

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester baseball team kicked off a busy final weekend of the regular season with a road doubleheader at Bluffton University in Ohio. The Spartans and Beavers played to a split. Strong pitching from Manchester in the opener propelled the Spartans to a 5-2 victory in Game 2. The host Beavers rallied late in Game 2 to steal a 6-5 victory. **Game 1:** Manchester defeated Bluffton 5-2. **Game 2:** Bluffton defeated Manchester 6-5. Manchester starter Carter Hooks, from Rochester, kept the Bluffton bats at bay in the opener. Hooks was terrific, tossing a complete game. He allowed just a pair of runs in the seventh inning and surrendered just four hits. He struck out a career-high 11 batters. Manchester opened Game 1 on Friday with a pair of runs in the top of the first inning. An error in the Bluffton outfield allowed a pair of Spartans to score. After Bluffton tied the game at two in the seventh, the Spartans responded with three runs in the top of the eighth inning. A wild pitch



Provided photo

Manchester starter Carter Hooks, from Rochester, kept the Bluffton bats at bay in the opener.

and a pair of sac flies allowed Manchester to regain the lead for good. Game 2 got off to a flying start for the Black and Gold who plated four runs in the opening frame. Joe Henschel, from Huntertown and Carroll High School, opened the scoring with a run-scoring triple. After an RBI groundout by Zach White, from Logansport; Austin Knowles, from Nas-

sau, Bahamas, and Athens Christian, Georgia, and Aidan Stevens, from Rensselaer and Rensselaer Central High School, followed with an RBI triple and RBI double. Following a mild rain delay, Bluffton managed to rally past the Spartans after plating four runs in the bottom of the eighth inning. Manchester starter CJ Williams, from Pendleton and Pendleton Heights High

School, threw 7.2 innings and allowed four runs. He matched a career-best nine strikeouts. Manchester hosted Earlham College to close out the regular season on Saturday, May 8 at Gratz Field. Saturday's contests were originally scheduled for Sunday, May 9. It was also Senior Day. *Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*

NASCAR starting to allow access a year after restart

Kevin Harvick crossed the finish line at Darlington Raceway a year ago and was struck by the stillness and silence of the empty grandstands. NASCAR was one of the first major sports to resume competition early in the pandemic, setting its own path in a strange new world of health screenings, temperature checks and empty race tracks. "I didn't think it was going to be that much different, and then we won the race and it is dead silent out here," said Harvick, who paused to take in the eerie silence that day. "It's weird. There's nobody up there." It has taken almost a full year but NASCAR's slow walk toward normalcy is ready to hit another gear: Daytona International Speedway, Darlington Raceway, Kansas Speedway and Pocono Raceway all announced last week their grandstands will open to full capacity later this year. Atlanta Motor Speedway plans the same for July. NASCAR re-opened its infield to sponsors, guests and media at Darlington last weekend as a trial run. The garage and infield have been closed to nearly everyone since March 8, 2020, and NASCAR President Steve Phelps had said it would remain that way until a vaccine was widely available. Vaccines have been available since early April to almost everyone in North Carolina, where most NASCAR teams are based, and it allowed NASCAR to put a plan in place for a reopening. There is no vaccine requirement for competitors, but NASCAR permitted teams, drivers and manufacturers to admit a total of 350 fully vaccinated guests and sponsors Sunday at Darlington. "It's so important for us. Some of the key players and our sponsors have such interest in it, and they love being here and being a part of it," said Joe Gibbs, team owner for the winning car driven by Martin Truex Jr. Gibbs included Bass Pro Shops CEO Johnny Morris among his guests. "We had guys flying in from all over," Gibbs said. "It's very, very important to get those key people from the companies back into our sport, and I'm looking forward to getting to go again and do hospitalities." The infield will be closed this weekend at Dover, but the footprint is expected to expand to 550 sponsors and guests at Circuit of the Americas in Texas and the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway later this month. Those two races will help set access protocols moving forward. A year ago, NASCAR restarted its engines 71 days after the series shut down and it was the first major sport to complete its entire season last November. It did so by never changing its procedures during the pandemic. NASCAR does not test for COVID-19 and the temperature check and health screenings that have been used since the sport restarted have not

Jenna Fryer



changed. The motorhome lot has been largely off limits to families, which created some grumbling as some drivers noted it was absurd to enforce banishment during races for those spending time together away from the track. Motorsports are unlike any other sport in that the hallmark of the industry is the behind-the-rope experience offered to sponsors, fans and even the families of the competitors. ■ A driver can bring his children to the pre-race meeting, the post-race news conference and can stand at his car with his entire family all the way up until its time to start his engine. ■ The sponsor is given access to the team, can sit on the pit stand during the race, or mingle in a hospitality suite with clients and customers during a meet-and-greet with a driver and team owner. ■ Fans can purchase passes into the garage and watch cars roll through inspection, walk down pit road and position themselves to chase their favorite driver for a selfie or an autograph. Infield camping spots are sometimes visited by drivers cruising by on a cart. IndyCar has had two industry-wide mass vaccinations, will host 135,000 fans on May 30 at the Indianapolis 500 and has been operating as business as usual since the season opened last month. But some of NASCAR's drivers have expressed vaccine hesitancy, and Phelps called mandating the shot "a bit of a slippery slope" so re-opening the garage has taken time. It has also come with some confusion about the current rules for garage decorum, particularly as mask mandates are being lifted in various states. The Darlington weekend marked the first time Fox pit reporters Jamie Little and Regan Smith did not wear masks while on camera; some drivers took their masks off. NASCAR clarified Monday that masks are still mandated in the garage for everyone except drivers, who are socially-distanced when they are being interviewed on camera. Truex noted his brother-in-law works on Sheldon Creed's winning truck and couldn't be part of the photographs Friday night: "He's like 'They wouldn't let us in victory lane and I don't understand because we were all wearing masks and when we get done here in victory lane we're all going to get in the van together and drive home,'" Truex said. It was the same for Truex as he celebrated his third win of the season, pretty much without his crew. "I think it's time to get back to doing things like we always did, and I think it's slowly going that direction," he said. "I can't wait until it's back to the way it used to be." *Jenna Fryer covers auto racing for The Associated Press.*

SPORTS BRIEFS

Honeywell Ladies Golf Association begins season

The Tuesday Honeywell Ladies Golf Association (LGA) will begin their season with a 9 a.m. shotgun Tuesday, May 18, according to Lana Garber. The yearly dues of \$15 will be taken then. New members are welcome. Arrive at 8:30 a.m. All Tuesday events are scrambles. Register in the clubhouse by noon Monday.

MLBPA increases assets to \$178M ahead of bargaining

NEW YORK (AP) — The Major League Baseball Players Association increased its liquid assets by about \$19 million to \$178.5 million ahead of collective bargaining that could lead to a spring training lockout next year. The union had \$178.5 million in cash, U.S. Treasury securities and investments on Dec. 31, according to a fi-

nancial disclosure form filed with the U.S. Department of Labor. That was up from \$159.5 million at the end of 2019, \$102.4 million at the end of 2018 and \$80.1 million at the end of 2017. According to details in the filing, the union had \$22.4 million in cash, \$94.1 million in Treasury securities and \$62 million investments with entities such as the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp., known as Freddie Mac; the Federal National Mortgage Association, known as Fan-

nie Mae; Federal Home Loan Banks; and Federal Farm Credit Bank. The union usually prepares for bargaining by withholding licensing money due to players and keeping it available to disburse during or after a stoppage. Baseball underwent eight work stoppages from 1972-95 but has not had one since. The current labor contract expires Dec. 1. Union head Tony Clark earned a \$2.25 million base salary, unchanged from 2019, according to the disclosure

form. Bruce Meyer earned \$1,005,000 as senior director of collective bargaining and legal, a raise of \$5,000 from 2019. **Cubs place OF Marisnick on IL with hamstring injury** CLEVELAND (AP) — The Cubs placed outfielder Jake Marisnick on the 10-day injured list Tuesday and recalled reliever Brad Wieck from Triple-A Iowa.

Marisnick is dealing with a right hamstring strain. He got hurt in the first inning of Sunday's 6-5 loss to Pittsburgh. The 30-year-old Marisnick is hitting .264 with four homers and 14 RBIs in 27 games in his first season with Chicago. He agreed to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract in February. Wieck is beginning his second stint with Chicago this season. The left-hander worked a scoreless inning at Milwaukee on April 12.

Avid cook savors joy on guests' faces

DEAR ABBY: I have come to realize that the best thing a person can do for anyone is to cook something for them. I enjoy the expression on their faces when they take the first bite, and the positive compliments I receive.

Dear Abby



I have a cookbook collection that, at present, numbers more than 3,200 items. I actually ran out of room for all of it in my home. Nevertheless, I would like to order your cookbooklets – I guess you could say in order to “feed” my obsession. I’d love to know which of the recipes are among your favorites. – Cooking It Up In Vermont

DEAR COOKING: For years, I, too, obsessively collected cookbooks, so I relate to your addiction. Be careful what you wish for! (My late husband used to walk by the crowded shelves muttering that he couldn’t understand why I didn’t actually prepare the recipes, but it was the photographs that hooked me.) The recipes in my cookbooklet set of two are ones that I have used for entertaining. Among my favorites in “Favorite Recipes” are the Company Crab Dip, Lobster Bisque, Sweet Potato Casserole (Thanksgiving), Swedish Meatballs, Everybody’s Favorite Meatloaf, Burgundy Lamb Shanks, Date Cake, Fruitcake (Yes, I know – but THIS one IS good!), the Famous Pecan Pie (a blue ribbon winner) and the Chocolate Mousse. Among my favorites from “More Favorite Recipes” are the Little Mushroom “Pies,” Hearty Bean Soup, Cathy Lee’s Rice, Eggplant Mozarella Casserole, Cornish Game Hens (stuffed with raisins, walnuts and apple), Chocolate Zucchini Cake (it’s healthy!), Raw Apple Cake With Caramel Glaze, Heavenly Peanut Butter Pie and Regency Brownies. For anyone not experiencing sugar shock after reading this, my booklets can be ordered by sending name and address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. After reviewing this list, my mouth is watering, my toes are curling and I’m realizing what a miracle it is that I’m not six ax handles across, but these are dishes I prepare for GUESTS – not my own daily consumption. Readers have written to tell me some of them have won prizes at county fairs in years past, so I’m sure you will enjoy them, too.

DEAR ABBY: I’ve been in an off-and-on marriage for eight years. My husband drinks every day. Once he’s reached a certain alcohol level, he curses me and talks trash about my family. He is no longer affectionate with me. Our marriage is toxic. We are living like roommates instead of husband and wife. He won’t go to AA and is very disrespectful, and I’m going to leave him. What do you think? – Can’t Do It Anymore In Georgia

DEAR CAN’T: I think your husband has shown you he isn’t going to change for the better. After eight years of living with his drinking problem and verbal abuse, the time has come to consult a lawyer and set yourself free. If you’re looking for validation from me, you have it.

TO MY MUSLIM READERS: It is time for the breaking of the Ramadan fast. Happy Eid al-Fitr, everyone. – Abby
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

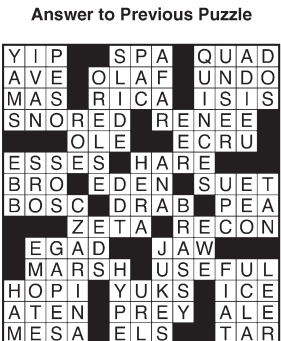
ACROSS

- 1 Wild guess
- 5 Cubed
- 10 — Aires
- 12 Tiny
- 13 Steep gulch
- 14 Trust account
- 15 German turndown
- 16 Kept out of sight
- 18 Pullet
- 19 Outspoken
- 21 Free to roam
- 25 Inelegant solution
- 29 Let out a skirt
- 30 Pharaoh’s amulet
- 32 Customer
- 34 Accustom
- 35 Fall upon
- 37 Furniture buy
- 38 Car dealer’s option
- 40 Trouser part
- 43 Rx giver
- 44 Mild oath

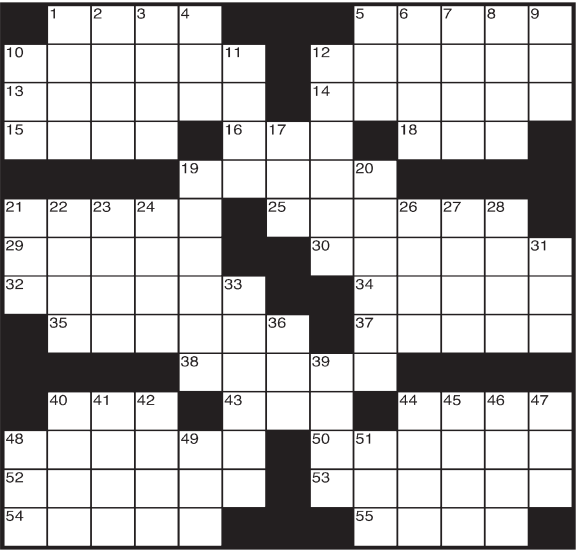
- 48 Infrequently
- 50 Do a favor for
- 52 Monaco neighbor
- 53 Seal cousin
- 54 Went with
- 55 Mock fanfare (hyph.)

DOWN

- 1 Certain
- 2 Garr of “Tootsie”
- 3 Prolific auth.
- 4 Son
- 5 Negative prefix
- 6 Move very slowly
- 7 Restore to health
- 8 Famed prep school
- 9 Lawn cover?
- 10 Forbid
- 11 London district
- 12 Awards



- 17 “Ugh!”
- 19 Springlike
- 20 Plexiglas
- 21 Shellac resin
- 22 Earthen jar
- 23 Elevator man
- 24 Witnesses
- 26 Elcar or Wynter
- 27 Root around
- 28 Peer of the realm
- 31 Hairly insect
- 33 Wild T-shirt (hyph.)
- 36 Mekong native
- 39 Trash hauler
- 40 Pasternak heroine
- 41 QED part
- 42 Autry of oaters
- 44 “Mack the Knife” singer
- 45 Encompass
- 46 Water, in Madrid
- 47 — Plaines
- 48 Rural addr.
- 49 Digital watch
- 51 Winged mammal



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

4	8		1				5	2
1				8	5			
	5	9		2		4		
				2	8			5
				7				
9		8	3					
		6		3		1	7	
			2	1				6
5	9				7		3	4

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION								
5	8	3	6	7	2	4	1	9
7	1	6	5	9	4	2	3	8
9	2	4	3	8	1	7	5	6
3	4	2	8	6	9	5	7	1
6	7	9	2	1	5	8	4	3
8	5	1	4	3	7	9	6	2
4	3	8	9	5	6	1	2	7
2	9	7	1	4	3	6	8	5
1	6	5	7	2	8	3	9	4

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DBYUD

FNOTE

UGATOE

SBPHIO

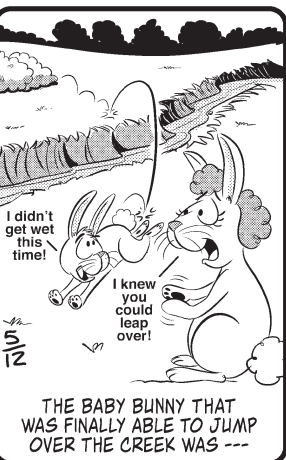
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Saturday's Jumbles: PUTTY WIDTH HINDER UNWISE
Answer: He gave his daughter his favorite fishing rod and reel so that she'd — WIND UP WITH IT

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

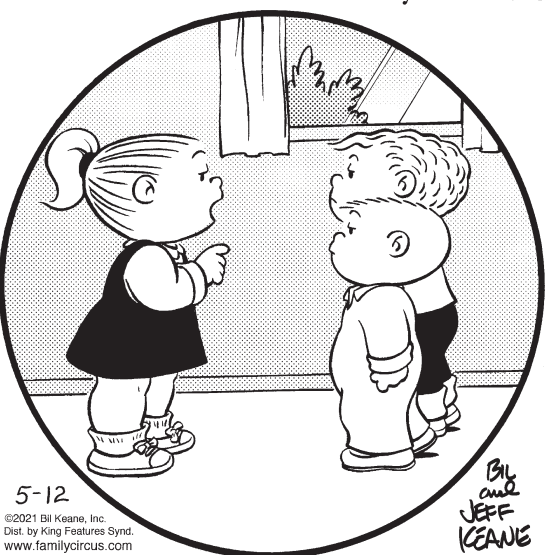


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

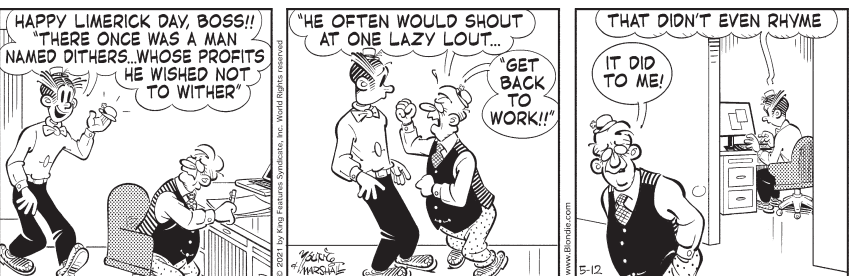


“Remember — no running in the house if an adult is watching.”

BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



HI & LOIS



BC



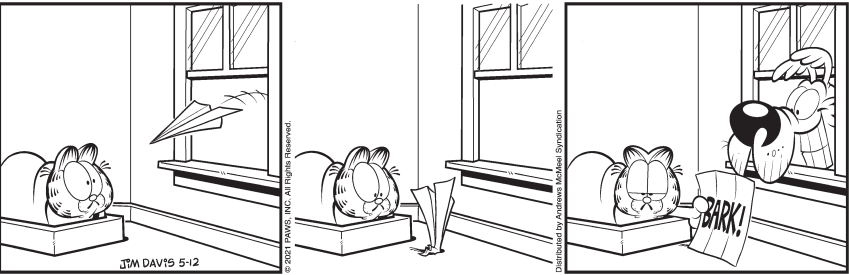
WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



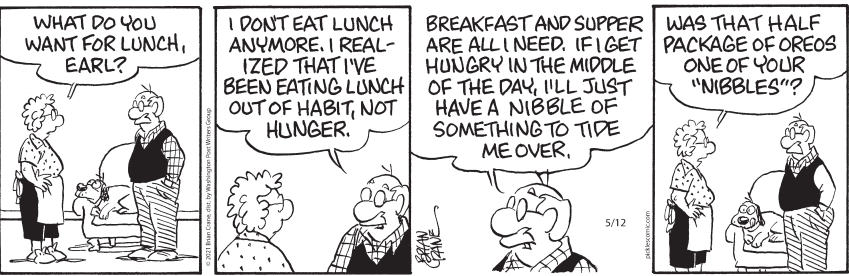
GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES

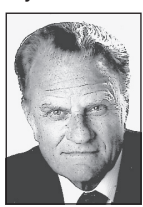


The first coming of Jesus Christ is the greatest event in world history

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Q: I have to write a paper on an historical event that affected the whole world that brought about social reform. Most classmates are writing about COVID-19. There must be an event that is happier than that. — H.E.

Billy Graham My Answer



A: The first coming of Jesus Christ is the greatest event in world history and will climax with His second coming. This is the centerpiece of God fulfilling His promises — the pivot around which revolves all the purposes of God. Jesus came the first time in a humble way — as a baby cradled in a manger in Bethlehem. But the next most important event will be the sec-

ond coming of Jesus as King of kings, when He will set His feet on the Mount of Olives overlooking His beloved city of Jerusalem.

This event will be so revolutionary that it will change every aspect of life on this planet. When Jesus conquers at Armageddon, He will usher in life as it was originally intended. Righteousness will reign. Disease will be arrested. Death will be modified. War will be abolished. Nature will be changed. This is

not fanciful imagination but the clear and repeated testimony of the Bible.

What a time to take the world headlines in one hand and God’s headlines found in His Word and watch the unfolding of the great drama of the ages. History is going somewhere. God, who does all things well, will bring beauty from the ashes of world chaos. A new social order will emerge when Christ comes back. A fabulous future is on the way.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“GKN LJLNE GTVXHN, IRLNL’P TA
TXILNATIVJL YKHNPL KG TYIVKA. . .
DRLA EKH YKBL IK T NKTCOXKYM,
ITML T CLIKHN.” — BTNE MTE TPR

Previous Solution: “The most important jewels that will ever be wrapped around your neck are the arms of your children. Good job, Mamas.” — Pink

TODAY’S CLUE: K S J N B M

Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
833 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
http://young.senate.gov/contact

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
885 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
http://braun.senate.gov/

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
419 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. Craig Snow, R-District 18
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website: www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

DAILY SCRIPTURE

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

1 Peter 3:8-9

Liz Cheney isn't the only victim of the Republican Party's Trump cult

For continuing to call out the Big Lie that the 2020 election was stolen from Donald Trump, Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming may soon lose her position as chair of the House Republican Conference, the No. 3 position in the party's leadership.

It's the latest proof that much of the party remains in the thrall of the former president, a bizarre state of affairs that also explains insidious efforts by Republican state legislators to make it harder to vote.

Three months ago House Republicans voted privately to retain Cheney in her leadership position, despite criticism of her vote to impeach Trump for his role in the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection. But now she is facing a challenge from Rep. Elise Stefanik of New York, who has been endorsed by House Minority Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.).

Cheney also seems to have lost the support of House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield), who after rightly saying that Trump bore responsibility for the Jan. 6 riots has reverted to the role of Trump toady. He was recorded Tuesday saying that "I've lost confidence" in Cheney.

For some of her fellow Republicans, Cheney's sin seems to be that she doesn't genuflect at the altar of the great god Trump. Rep. Lance Gooden (R-Texas) tweeted on Tuesday that "Trump is still the LEADER of the GOP, Liz! I look forward to her being removed SOON!"

For other Republicans, Cheney's offense isn't that she voted to impeach Trump but that she insists on continuing to speak the truth about the former president. According to a report in the New York Times, some Republicans fear that Cheney's refusal to stop criticizing Trump or condemning the events of Jan. 6 "could weaken the party's message going into the 2022 midterm elections, when they hope to portray Democrats as big-government socialists so villainous they should be voted out of the majority."

But Cheney, a stalwart conservative, is on record criticizing President Biden's spending plans. The only message her truth-telling weakens is that Trump won the election. It's not her fault that many of her fellow Republicans have bought into Trump's fantasy about breathtakingly widespread election fraud (or pretended to buy into it, for fear of offending his supporters).

In a powerful op-ed column published in the

Washington Post this week, Cheney wrote: "The Republican Party is at a turning point, and Republicans must decide whether we are going to choose truth and fidelity to the Constitution." Many of Cheney's colleagues have made their decision, and they've chosen loyalty to Trump.

Unfair as Cheney's ouster from leadership would be, it's an internal Republican matter. A far more noxious consequence of the Republican Party's continued embrace of Trump and his Big Lie is the effort by Republican-controlled legislatures to make it harder to vote, especially but not exclusively for groups that lean Democratic. Florida recently followed Georgia in approving legislation ostensibly to solve a nonexistent problem of rampant election fraud, but whose real effect will likely be to reduce the number of ballots cast and counted.

Meanwhile, in Arizona, the Republican-controlled state Senate has engineered an unnecessary "audit" of 2020 votes in the state's most populous county, which, like the state as a whole, was carried by Biden. (In a statement, Trump said: "Thank you State Senators and others in Arizona for commencing this full forensic audit. I predict the results will be startling!") The review is being carried out by a cybersecurity contractor with no experience in voting systems; among other idiotic pursuits, it is examining the ballots for bamboo fibers on the suspicion that thousands of counterfeit ballots were shipped in from China.

Democrats, who narrowly control both houses of Congress, need to move quickly to minimize the damage from the Republicans' embrace of Trump's Big Lie and the related notion that election law must be changed to dispel concerns about "election integrity" that are rooted in that lie. The House has already acted; now it's up to the Senate to approve key provisions at least of the For the People Act – including requirements for early voting and widespread voting by mail – and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. If enacting those reforms requires ending the filibuster, so be it.

Republicans are free to punish truth-tellers in their party for refusing to bow down to Trump. But they must not be allowed to undermine the right of Americans of all parties (and none) to exercise the most important obligation of a citizen in a democracy.

This editorial was originally published in Los Angeles Times.

LETTERS

Celebrate National Stuttering Awareness Week

Monday, May 10, began National Stuttering Awareness Week, a weeklong spotlight on the condition affecting more than 70 million people worldwide. For this year's celebration, we are focused on fighting myths associated with speech disorder. Here's one:

Myth: People who stutter are not smart.

Reality: There is no link whatsoever between stuttering and intelligence. We keep an updated list of famous people who stutter, which includes world-renown scientists Charles Darwin and Alan Turing.

For more than 70 years, the Stuttering Foundation has served as a trusted resource for the stuttering community, offering brochures, e-books, podcasts, videos, a magazine, virtual learning and multiple social media channels to spread timely and accurate information about stuttering.

Jane Fraser
President, The Stuttering Foundation
Memphis, Tennessee

Celebrate National Police Week

The Wabash Police Department would like to remind all citizens National Police Week lasts from Sunday, May 9 through Saturday, May 15. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day. According to recent statistics, in the United States, there were 264 police officers killed in the line of duty in 2020. It's sad to say that the staggering number is up from 131 in 2019. National Police Week is a way to honor the fallen and show support for law enforcement officers who risk their lives daily to protect the citizens they serve. The Wabash Police Department would like to thank the citizens of Wabash for the continued support.

Capt. Matt A. Benson
Public Information Officer,
Wabash Police Department

Prep women to run for office for the good of all

With the campaigns of 2020 barely behind us, it might seem too soon to think about the next round of elections, but it's not. A handful of candidates and incumbents for everything from the country sheriff to U.S. Congress already have announced plans to run in 2022, and you can be sure countless others are drafting announcements.

And that means it's the perfect time to prepare more women to step into the political arena. After all, is a representative democracy truly representative if half the population can claim only about 20 percent to 30 percent representation?

The nation has made progress on gender equity in politics, with 2020 seeing record numbers of women in all 50 states running for a variety of offices. But progress is not a success, and improvement is not parity. We have a long way to go, not just for the good of women, but for the good of the nation.

Granted, more women from both major parties are participating in politics, but gaps remain. For example, data from the Center for American Women and Politics shows us that women made up only 29 percent of candidates running for the U.S. House of Representatives in 2020, and 24 percent of candidates running for the U.S. Senate.

As for women who have been elected, the numbers look even worse: Women hold only 27 percent of U.S. House seats and 24 percent of US Senate seats. Only 31 percent of all state legislators are women and only 23 percent of mayors of cities with populations of more than 30,000 people. Here in Indiana, although women from both parties gained seats in the newest General Assembly, the state still ranks 30th for gender parity in politics.

And lest someone should think this is an issue only Democrats care about, consider this: The Republican party ran 89 percent more women for the U.S. House of Representatives in 2020; however, the fact remains that only 31 of the 335 House seats are filled by Republican women.

Why does this all matter? If women want the issues that matter to them to be addressed, they need to be at the table. We saw this vividly in Indiana's recent legislative season when several bills advocating for women's rights died in the Statehouse: House Bill 1011 would have made it illegal to pay wages that discriminate based on sex. House Bill 1245 would have prevented the discrimination against pregnant employees. House Bill 1273 would have allowed menstrual products to be exempt from the state gross retail tax.

But this is not just about legislation specific to women. Everyone benefits when women are in office, as studies have shown that women are more likely to propose legislation that benefits families and children, and they're more inclined to emphasize education reform and healthcare. Furthermore, as Women Deliver notes, global studies show that women are more likely to work with members of other parties, to be available to their communities and to increase constituent confidence in a democracy.

So, how do we get more women involved? By training, encouraging and preparing them to run. To this end, on Saturday, May 22 Women4Change Indiana is hosting its annual Ready to Run program, a non-partisan training initiative designed to help women run for office. With virtual presentations from experts who will talk about their experiences in politics and government, the event is open to anyone interested in supporting efforts to get more women in office in Indiana.

Our state and nation will be better with more women in office. You can help.

Rima Shahid is the executive director of Women4Change Indiana.



National network unity is strong

Nothing like just finishing a national conference to give me hope and pause at the same time. I will try to boil down three days' worth of information to only a few bullet points of key topics. The updated projection for 2021 is that 42 million individuals may experience food insecurity in 2021. This number is actually down compared to the 45 million in 2020. This is a reason to take a moment and celebrate, but it's still 42 million people.

OK, the celebration is over. The 42 million is 1 in 8 people overall and 1 in 6 children (13 million). Our local numbers are slightly worse than those averages but have been for a very long time. Stark racial disparities exist in food insecurity, with 1 in 5 Black, 1 in 6 Latino, and 1 in 4 Native American households historically impacted pre-COVID. These significant disparities are expected to continue despite decreased projections.

That gives me pause.

Although projections have declined slightly, food insecurity is expected to remain elevated throughout 2021 compared to pre-pandemic levels for 96 percent of all counties in the U.S. A record number of people sought help in 2020 – with food banks reporting an average of 55 percent increase in demand and an estimated 40 percent of individuals served early in the pandemic had never sought help before. Food banks have to continue to innovate to meet the unprecedented need with new distribution and outreach models, delivering over 6.1 billion meals in 2020 (1.8 billion pounds being fresh produce). This is a 44 percent jump in meals provided compared to 2019. For us, the innovations have been using cargo vans with some community volunteers to make food deliveries to under-served neighborhoods. Also new is our Small Community Distributions that target towns with less than 2,500 people to reach under-resourced and under-served rural communities. Our level of engagement with the 18 massive tailgate distributions we do per month, is still at twice the frequency they were in 2019. In most recent days,

we are seeing a slight decrease in the number of families attending the Tailgates and that is very consistent with tax returns and this year's additional stimulus checks. I would also anticipate that the numbers will be back up again in May, June and July.

Our food supply is made up of three components:

1. Donated food: From the U.S. food manufacturing and distribution system, national, regional and local,
2. The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP): USDA government commodities, and
3. Purchased food: Items we purchase on the open market from warehouses, food brokers and direct from manufacturers.

With the fantastic cooperation between the regional food banks in Indiana, we have been able to keep our inventory relatively stable. This partnership mainly addresses the overages and shortages we all experience mainly in fresh produce but has been a lifesaver to ensure we can continue to meet our aggressive food distribution schedules with all inventory lines. Even though it has been more difficult to consistently receive, fresh produce remains at 35 percent of all the pounds we distribute. Meat, fish and poultry are running at 14 percent for 2021 and dairy are at 8 percent. So, the big three – produce, protein and dairy – are 57 percent of all pounds distributed to struggling families in the first four months of 2021. The nutritional needle has been moving upward in the Feeding America network for several years, with more positive steps in development for the future. The strength and unity of this national network have never been better poised to impact hunger in my experience over the last 16 years. We're excited to lean into this work and see families continue to get back up on their feet, which benefits everyone.

Tim Kean is the president and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana. The Second Harvest Food Bank network of 95 member agencies, programs, 15 senior sites and 35 schools provides relationship building and food assistance to more than 67,000 low-income people facing daily instability in Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Henry, Jay, Madison, Randolph and Wabash counties.



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basic utilities included

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basic utilities included

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tenant pays electric

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3 BR 616 S Boots St; \$125/wk
tenant pays electric

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0900

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF WABASH
IN THE WABASH CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO: 85C01-2105-EU-000037
IN RE THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF:
PRISCILLA ANN ELLIOT, Deceased
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that on the 3rd day of May, 2021, JOSEPH G. MCKENZIE and JAMES C. MCKENZIE were appointed co-personal representatives of the unsupervised estate of PRISCILLA ANN ELLIOT, deceased, who died on the 16th day of April, 2021.
All persons having claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.
Dated at Wabash, Indiana, this 3rd day of May, 2021.
/s/ Lori J. Draper (SEAL)
LORI DRAPER, Clerk
Wabash Circuit Court
Attorney for the Estate:
R. P. Fisher
FISHER & IRELAND
65 West Canal Street
Wabash, Indiana 46992
HSPAXLP.05/05,05/12/2021

0900

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Circuit Court of Wabash County, Indiana, in Cause No. 85C01-2011-MF-761 wherein Beacon Credit Union was Plaintiff, and Barry B. Miller and Midland Credit Management, Inc., were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 8th day of June, 2021, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as is possible, at the Wabash County Sheriff's Office at 79 West Main St., Wabash, IN 46992, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Wabash County, Indiana. Part of the North half of the Southeast Quarter of Indian Reserve number 23, Township 27 North, Range 6 East, Wabash County, Indiana, being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the southeast corner of Outlot number One (1) of Root's Addition, as recorded on pages 183-184 of Plat Book number 2 in the records of the office of the Wabash County, Indiana Recorder; thence North 89 degrees 40 minutes 58 seconds West (assumed bearing), along the south line of said Root's Addition, 366.25 feet to the northwest corner of a tract of land now (or formerly) owned by Phillip R. Penn and Melanie Penn as recorded on page 109-110 of deed record 310 in the records of said Recorder's Office and the POINT OF BEGINNING, being marked by an iron rebar stake with a plastic cap stamped LS80040428; thence South 00 degrees 07 minutes 51 seconds East, along said Penn boundary, 168.91 feet to the northerly right of way line of Sivey Court and the point of curvature of a non-tangent curve to the right; thence northwesterly, along said right of way line and a curve having a radius of 25.00 feet, an arc length of 5.49 feet and subtended by a chord bearing North 46 degrees 37 minutes 06 seconds West, 5.48 feet to the point of reverse curvature of a curve to the left; thence westerly, along said right of way line, and a curve having a radius of 50.00 feet, an arc length of 89.32 feet and subtended by a chord bearing South 88 degrees 29 minutes 19 seconds West, 77.90 feet to an iron rebar stake with a plastic cap stamped LS80040428; thence North 52 degrees 41 minutes 10 seconds West, 33.82 feet to an iron rebar stake with a plastic cap stamped LS80040428; thence North 01 degrees 12 minutes 36 seconds West, 114.35 feet to an iron rebar stake with a plastic cap stamped LS80040428 on the southerly boundary of a tract of land now (or formerly) owned by Larry K. Miller et al as recorded on Document #2005R3898345 in the records of said Recorder's Office; thence South 89 degrees 40 minutes 58 seconds East, along said Miller boundary, 47.25 feet to an iron rebar stake with a plastic cap stamped LS80040428 on the easterly boundary of said Miller tract; thence North 01 degree 12 minutes 36 seconds West, along said Miller boundary, 33.00 feet to the southerly boundary of Outlot number Three (3) in said Root's Addition; thence South 89 degrees 40 minutes 58 seconds East, along the south line of said Root's Addition, 64.24 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Containing 0.36 of an acre, more or less.
Commonly known as 1032 & 1034 Sivey Ct., Wabash, IN 46992
Parcel No: 85-14-63-401-110.000-009
Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.
"Subject to all liens, encumbrances and easements of record not otherwise extinguished in the proceedings known as Cause No. 85C01-2011-MF-761 in the Circuit Court of the County of Wabash, Indiana."
M. Josh Petruniwi 29732-29
Downs Tandy & Petruniwi, P.C.
99 West Canal St.
Wabash, IN 46992
Ryan Baker, Sheriff of Wabash County
Noble Township
1032 & 1034 Sivey Ct., Wabash, IN 46992
Street Address
SHERIFF FILE NO: 85-21-0009-SS
The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street addressed published herein
SERVICE DIRECTED TO: Type of Service: Sheriff
Barry M. Miller, 1034 Sivey Ct., Wabash, IN 46992
SERVICE DIRECTED TO: Type of Service: First Class Mail
Midland Credit Management, Inc. First Class Mail c/o Corporation Service Co.
135 N. Pennsylvania St., Suite 1610
Indianapolis, IN 46204
NOTICE DOWNS TANDY & PETRUNIWI, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.HSPAXLP.05/05,05/12,05/19/2021

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Notice of Public Hearing before the Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Wabash, Indiana Notice is hereby given on the 3 day of May, 2021, Larry & Delilah Watson (Petitioner's name) filed with the Board of Zoning Appeals of the City of Wabash, Indiana, a petition requesting an appeal of a decision by the Building Commissioner of the City of Wabash, Indiana, to-wit: for the grant of a (special exception) (variance). The location and description of the property for which the variance has been requested is . (Street Address /RR #) 865 Sunset Drive, Wabash (Legal Description) Lot #42 in Sunnymede Addition continuation #1 in City of Wabash The description of the action requested in the petition is (state that it is a variance or special exception and describe the variance or special exception in detail) Demolish existing shed and rebuild in same location extending by 4 feet to the east The petition and all necessary information relating thereto will be available for public inspection in the office of the Building Commission of the City of Wabash, Indiana, Wabash City Hall, 202 South Wabash Street, Wabash, Indiana from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday of each week until the date of the hearing of the petition. A public hearing will be held by said Board on the 20th day of May 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Wabash City Hall, 202 South Wabash Street, Wabash, Indiana, at which time all interested persons will have the opportunity to be heard on the matters set forth in the petition.
James Straws
CBI, CFI, CPE
Building Commissioner
HSPAXLP.05/12/2021

0900

WABASH COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION
WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice is hereby given of a public hearing before the Wabash County Board of Zoning Appeals on the 25TH day of MAY, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the office of the Wabash County Plan Commission, top floor the Wabash County Court House, Wabash, Indiana. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the application of: NORMA JEAN BECHTOLD & DENISE SIEPKER for VARIANCE #: 4 TO MAKE MORE THAN 1 SELL /SPLIT OF LESS THAN 20 ACRES IN A 5 YEAR PERIOD The geographical area affected by the changes requested is generally described as: PART OF THE NORTH EAST 1/4 OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 27N, RANGE 7 E, LAGRO TOWNSHIP, 154.667 ACRES
A copy of the proposal is now on file in the office of the Wabash County Plan Commission and is available for public examination. Any written objections that are filed with the secretary of the Wabash County Plan Commission prior to the hearing will be considered and, at the hearing, the Wabash County Plan Commission will consider any additional comments concerning the application. The hearing may be continued from time to time as may be found necessary. NOTICE: Indiana Code 36-7-4-920 forbids any person from communicating with a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals before the hearing with the intent to influence a member's action on a matter pending before the Board.
Wabash County Plan Commission
Wabash County Courthouse
One North Wabash Street
Wabash, Indiana 46992
HSPAXLP.05/12/2021

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0900


WABASH COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION
WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice is hereby given of a public hearing before the Wabash County Board of Zoning Appeals on the 25TH day of MAY, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the office of the Wabash County Plan Commission, top floor the Wabash County Court House, Wabash, Indiana. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the application of EADS FARMS INC for SPECIAL EXCEPTION #: 6 TO OPERATE AN EVENT CENTER IN AN AG ZONED DISTRICT
The geographical area affected by the changes requested is generally described as: PART OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF SECTION 26, TOWNSHIP 28N, RANGE 7E, LAGRO TOWNSHIP, WABASH COUNTY, A copy of the proposal is now on file in the office of the Wabash County Plan Commission and is available for public examination. Any written objections that are filed with the secretary of the Wabash County Plan Commission prior to the hearing will be considered and, at the hearing, the Wabash County Plan Commission will consider any additional comments concerning the application. The hearing may be continued from time to time as may be found necessary. NOTICE: Indiana Code 36-7-4-920 forbids any person from communicating with a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals before the hearing with the intent to influence a member's action on a matter pending before the Board.
Wabash County Plan Commission
Wabash County Courthouse
One West Hill Street
Wabash, Indiana 46992
HSPAXLP. 05/12/2021

0900

ADVERTISEMENT TO BID
2021 ROAD RESURFACING PROJECT
WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA
Sealed proposals will be received by the County of Wabash through its Board of Commissioners, One West Hill Street, Suite 102, Wabash, IN 46992 in the Commissioners Room at 8:45 a.m. (local time) on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, and then will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bids received later than the above time will be returned unopened.
DESCRIPTION OF WORK: Work for which proposals are to be received is for 2021 Road Resurfacing Project
BID DOCUMENTS: Copies of the Specifications and Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of Butler, Fairman and Seufert, 8450 Westfield Blvd., Suite 300, Indianapolis, IN 46240. Copies of the documents are available for examining at Board of Commissioners, One West Hill Street, Suite 102, Wabash, IN 46992 in the Commissioners Room, Dodge Data & Analytics, BXIndiana Construction League, and the office of Butler, Fairman and Seufert, 8450 Westfield Blvd., Suite 300, Indianapolis, IN 46240. Bidders are required to be a plan holder of record having obtained the contract documents through the office of the Engineer. Bids not meeting this requirement will be deemed non-responsive. Copies of the bid documents will be made available to bidders through one of the following methods:
Hard copies for \$75.00 and digital copies for \$50.00 may be obtained at the office of the Engineer.
Remittances are not refundable. Payment shall be by money order or check and shall be made payable to Butler, Fairman and Seufert, Inc. Plan holders must recognize that they will be notified of each addendum via e-mail and will be required to electronically download addendum content via file transfer protocol (FTP) regardless of initial document delivery method chosen.
Bids shall be properly and completely executed on Bid Forms and in the order as identified and contained in the Contract Documents obtained from the offices of the Engineer as stated above. Each bid shall be accompanied by a fully completed Form No. 96 (latest revision) and acceptable Bid Security. Any bid not accompanied by the above-required items shall be deemed to be a non-responsive bid.
No Bidder may withdraw his proposal within a period of 60 days following the date set for the receiving of bids. The Owner reserves the right to retain any and all bids for a period of not more than 60 days and said bid shall remain in full force and effect during said time. The Owner further reserves the right to waive informalities and to award the Contract to any Bidder all to the advantage of the County of Wabash or to reject all bids.
BID SECURITY: Each bid shall be accompanied by an acceptable certified check made payable to the County of Wabash or an acceptable bid bond in the amount equal to 10% of the total bid price executed by an incorporated surety company in good standing and qualified to do business in the State of Indiana and whose name appears on the current Treasury Department Circular 570. BONDS: A Performance Bond and Payment Bond each in the amount of 100% of the Contract price will be required from the Contractor to whom the work is awarded.
INDIANA REQUIREMENTS: Standard Questionnaire Form 96 (latest revision), filled out and signed, including attachment of Contractor's Financial Statement as stipulated in Section III.
COUNTY WABASH
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Jeff D. Dawes, Chairman
Barry J. Eppley, Vice-Chairman
Brian K. Haupt, Member
Bid Date: June 1, 2021
HSPAXLP.05/05,05/12/2021

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Clock is ticking for EU vaccine certificates as summer looms

By **SAMUEL PETREQUIN**
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — As strict lockdowns are loosened across Europe and many EU citizens dream about holidays in the sun, the 27-nation bloc has yet to agree on how to quickly implement a virus certificate scheme to boost summer travel and tourism.

European affairs ministers gathered Tuesday in Brussels to assess progress in discussions with European lawmakers and expressed their optimism that trans-border travel passes will be approved soon.

A deal between the Parliament and EU countries is required in May to ensure the system facilitating free movement within the EU during the COVID-19 pandemic will be up and running by the end of June, but several sticking points remain.

When it proposed the scheme in March, the EU Commission said coronavirus certificates would be given to EU residents who can prove they have been vaccinated or those who tested negative for the virus or have proof they recovered from it.

EU lawmakers and nations agree on that, but the Parliament insists that COVID-19 certificates should be enough to allow EU citizens to move about freely and that EU countries shouldn't be allowed to impose extra restrictions on certificate holders such as quarantines, tests or self-isolation measures.

That's a major roadblock, since border controls are a national responsibility.

A senior EU official, speaking anonymously as is custom before Tuesday's meeting, said EU nations had different opinions on the topic and the bloc was working to find a universal solution. The official said the pressure was on since vaccinations were increasing across Europe and more and more people wanted to travel.

The European Commission hopes that about 70

percent of the EU's adult population will be vaccinated by the end of the summer.

The Parliament has also raised concerns about the price of the PCR coronavirus tests that could be included in the certificates, which will be available in a digital or paper format with a QR code. EU citizens will get the pass for free but the price of tests vary widely across the bloc.

EU lawmakers said member states should "ensure universal, accessible, timely and free-of-charge testing" to avoid discrimination against those who have yet to be vaccinated.

Ana Paula Zacarias, Portugal's Secretary of State for EU Affairs, noted "very good" technical discussions with the Parliament but said a fixed common price for the tests cannot be imposed. Portugal currently chairs the rotating presidency of the Council of the EU.

"It's a free market, we can only try to see if there is a possibility that the price of the tests can be lowered," she said.

Lawmakers agreed with the European Commission that all vaccines approved by the European Medicines Agency, the EU's drug regulator, should be automatically recognized. So far that includes vaccines from AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson. They also offered EU countries the possibility of including other vaccines listed by the World Health Organization for emergency use, which would include China's Sinopharm vaccine.

The EU has already begun working on the technical aspects of the vaccine certificate scheme, with testing starting this week in several EU nations.

Commission Vice President Maros Sefcovic said the certificates could also be useful at a later stage to help the 27-nation bloc reopen to visitors from outside the EU.

"I think in the end it will be needed on a wider scale," he said.

Across faiths, U.S. volunteers mobilize for India crisis

By **LUIS ANDRES HENAO** and **JESSIE WARDARSKI**
Associated Press

Volunteers at Hindu temples, Muslim groups and Sikh relief organizations across the United States are mobilizing to support India as the world's second most populous country struggles to handle a devastating surge of the coronavirus.

From coast to coast, faith groups tied to the Indian diaspora have collected hundreds of oxygen concentrators and electrical transformers to ship to overwhelmed hospitals, raised millions for everything from food to firewood for funeral pyres and gathered in prayer for spiritual support for the Asian nation.

"This is a human tragedy," said Manzoor Ghori, executive director of the California-based Indian Muslim Relief and Charities, which has donated more than \$1 million for purposes including supporting teachers and providing families with thousands of medical kits and more than 300,000 meals.

Ghori said he has had five loved ones, including two

nephews, die in India from COVID-19 — "so, it is a personal tragedy" as well.

He's one of many in the U.S. diaspora to have lost relatives to the virus in India, where total confirmed infections and deaths have surpassed 22.6 million and 246,000, respectively, though the true numbers are believed to be much higher.

Kashyap Patel, an Atlanta-based physician, said the pandemic has been "catastrophic" for him, with about a dozen members of his extended family in India contracting the virus, from teenagers to octogenarians, and his 73-year-old uncle dying from it.

He volunteers for the North America branch of the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha Hindu organization, which has provided 250 oxygen concentrators and several hundred thousand dollars in COVID-19 relief to help with India's overwhelmed health system.

"It is challenging to find hospital beds," Patel said. "It is challenging to find oxygen, to find contemporary medicine."

India's Supreme Court recently said it would set up a

national task force consisting of top experts and doctors to conduct an "oxygen audit" to determine whether supplies from the government were reaching states in the country of nearly 1.4 billion people amid widespread complaints of shortages.

The U.S. branch of Khalsa Aid, a U.K.-based Sikh humanitarian organization, is sending another 500 concentrators and 500 electrical transformers this week to New Delhi, where the group's team is already helping COVID-19 patients, hospitals and NGOs with essential supplies as well as wood for cremations.

At a warehouse on New York's Long Island, workers busily packed, sorted and labeled dozens of boxes containing transformers on a recent day ahead of their shipment.

"In these last two weeks, many of us haven't slept. We've been running our day jobs at the same time," one of the group's directors, Manpreet Kaur said.

"It's been an intense period of time, but for us, it's about giving back to the community," Kaur continued. "And the people in India definitely

need that support."

Khalsa Aid's India relief effort has gotten grassroots support from individuals all over the country, such as Tahil Sharma, a Los Angeles-based interfaith activist born to a Hindu father and a Sikh mother. He raised nearly \$3,000 on Facebook for the initiative.

"It's a small amount for a really big crisis," Sharma said. "But it helps mitigate the costs that Khalsa Aid needs to take upon itself sometimes in being able to get oxygen concentrators, to be able to secure beds at gurdwaras (Sikh houses of worship) on the ground in New Delhi, to help them get the resources that they need so people don't get hit by more waves of deaths."

Seeing individual pledges like that on social media platforms motivated members of Shri Shirdi Saibaba, a Hindu Temple in South Brunswick Township, New Jersey, to organize as a religious organization for their own effort, temple founder and chairman Rajesh Anand said. So far the temple has raised about \$3,000 to buy concentrators for two hospitals in New Delhi.

Indiana restoring work-search rule for jobless benefits

By **TOM DAVIES**
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana residents receiving unemployment benefits will again have to show they are actively searching for work as the governor is reinstating a requirement that he lifted soon after the COVID-19 pandemic hit the state.

Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb signed an executive order Tuesday that puts the job search requirement back in place starting June 1.

Indiana is joining several other states creating more requirements for people to stay on unemployment, with many businesses blaming the ease of obtaining the weekly jobless benefits with making it more difficult to fill job openings.

Holcomb said last week he was directing the state Department of Workforce Development for a demographic analysis of unemployed residents while he considered whether to withdraw Indiana from a \$300-a-week supplemental federal payment on top of state benefits. The maximum state payment is \$390 a week.

"Our unemployment rate stands at 3.9 percent, which is near pre-pandemic levels, and our labor force mirrors pre-pandemic levels, when we also had worker shortages," Holcomb said in a statement.

The governor's new order means that those seeking unemployment benefits must submit a weekly report on their job-seeking efforts, which can include applying

for work, attending job fairs or participating in state workshops.

Indiana had about 60,000 people receiving traditional unemployment benefits in mid-April — down some 195,000, or 75 percent, from a year ago, according to federal statistics. About 225,000 people received payments from other federal jobless programs started to assist those who lost income during the pandemic.

The state's unemployment rate has plunged since peaking at 16.9 percent in April 2020. It was 3.9 percent for last month after being stable between 3.1 percent and 3.6 percent over a three-year span before the pandemic prompted widespread business closures.

Republican legislative leaders said they supported Hol-

comb's actions.

"We're back to the challenge that we had pre pandemic were trying to find bodies to fill jobs," Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray said.

Businesses might also need to become more aggressive to hire workers, such as many fast-food restaurants have done in paying more than minimum wage, Bray said.

"If you want to get people to work, you are going to have to start paying them a little more," Bray said. "I think that employers are going to have to do that in order to compete."

The Indiana Democratic Party said state officials need to help those in low-paying jobs, including the estimated nearly 900,000 people working for minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour.

Democrats press for broader voting access as GOP resists

By **BRIAN SLODYSKO** and **CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans in the U.S. Senate mounted an aggressive case Tuesday against sweeping election and voting-access legislation from Democrats, pushing to roll back proposals for automatic voter registration, 24-hour ballot drop boxes and other changes in an increasingly charged national debate.

The legislation, a top priority of Democrats in the aftermath of the divisive 2020 election, would bring about the largest overhaul of U.S. voting in a generation, touching nearly every aspect of the electoral process. It would remove hurdles to voting erected in the name of election security and curtail the influence of big money in politics.

Though it is federal legislation, Republicans are fighting a national campaign against it rooted in state battles to restrict new ways of voting that have unfolded during the pandemic. Just Tuesday, the Arizona Legislature sent the governor a bill that would make it easier to purge infrequent voters from a list of those who automatically get mail-in ballots, the latest battleground state to push through changes likely to take months or years to finally settle in court.

GOP Senate leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky is so determined to stop the legislation that he made a rare appearance at Tuesday's Rules Committee session in Washington. McConnell and other Republicans on the panel ar-

gued for a wave of amendments against key sections of the bill, which Democrats turned aside in an hours-long voting session.

"We'll hear a lot of flowery language today," McConnell said. But he declared, "Our democracy is not in crisis" and he wasn't about to cede control of elections to new laws "under the false pretense of saving it."

With Democrats holding the White House and narrow control of Congress, they see the legislation as crucial — perhaps their best chance to counter efforts by state-level Republicans who have seized on former President Donald Trump's false claims about the 2020 election to push ballot restrictions.

Yet even as they tout the measure, Democrats find themselves playing defense, unable to push their legislative response to President Joe Biden's desk. While the elections overhaul has passed the House, there's no clear path forward in the Senate, which is split 50-50. Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona have both said they oppose making changes to the Senate's filibuster rules, which would be needed to maneuver the bill past unified Republican opposition.

Trump's election claims, which have only increased in the six months since his defeat, were rejected by Republican as well as Democratic election officials in state after state, by U.S. cybersecurity officials and by courts up to the U.S. Supreme Court. And his attorney general said there was no evidence of fraud that

could change the election outcome.

"President Trump told a big lie, one of the biggest ever told. We all know that. Every single person in this room knows that," Sen. Chuck Schumer, the Democratic majority leader, said at the hearing. "And it's taking root, this big lie is taking root in our country, not just in the minds of his voters but in the laws of the land."

The laws emerging around the country "are about one thing and one thing alone: making it harder for Americans to vote," he said.

The Democrats' measure would not stop every bill being passed in Republican states across the country. But it would make it difficult, if not impossible, for states to press ahead with many of the new rules.

That's because the legislation would create nationwide rules for early voting and no-excuse absentee voting, standardizing the process. Currently, six states don't offer early, in-person voting and a third of states still require an excuse — such as illness or planning to be away from home on Election Day — to vote by mail, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Republicans walked a narrow line during much of the discussion on Tuesday, criticizing congressional Democrats for seeking to change voting rules while at the same time offering robust support for GOP state lawmakers who are doing the same.

The GOP senators cited high voter turnout in last year's presidential election

during the pandemic as proof that the system worked without the Democrats' changes and voters were not disenfranchised. But they offered little justification for GOP efforts at the state level to impose new limits on voting, particularly mail voting.

At one point, McConnell noted 19 fraud-related convictions in his state since 2010, out of millions cast over that period. In 2020, roughly 2.1 million ballots were cast for president in Kentucky.

Republicans also attacked provisions that would create a new public financing system for political campaigns and strengthen the enforcement capabilities of the federal agency tasked with policing elections, as well as dozens of other proposals that would dictate how states conduct their elections.

"This bill doesn't protect voting rights, it steals voting rights from the American people," said Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas.

While Republicans argue the new state rules are needed to secure the vote, critics warn the states are seeking to reduce voter access, particularly for Black voters, who are a crucial part of the Democratic Party base. That could usher in a new Jim Crow era for the 21st century, they warn.

"These bills moving in state capitals across America are not empty threats, they are real efforts to stop people from voting," said Sen. Amy Klobuchar, a Minnesota Democrat and chairwoman of the Senate Rules Committee.

NASA spacecraft begins 2-year trip home with asteroid rubble

By **MARCIA DUNN**
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — With rubble from an asteroid tucked inside, a NASA spacecraft fired its engines and began the long journey back to Earth on Monday, leaving the ancient space rock in its rearview mirror.

The trip home for the robotic prospector, Osiris-Rex, will take two years.

Osiris-Rex reached asteroid Bennu in 2018 and spent two years flying near and around it, before collecting rubble from the surface last fall.

The University of Arizona's Dante Lauretta, the principal scientist, estimates the spacecraft holds between a half pound and 1 pound of mostly bite-size chunks. Either way, it easily exceeds the target of at least 2 ounces.

It will be the biggest cosmic haul for the U.S. since the Apollo moon rocks. While NASA has returned comet dust and solar wind samples, this is the first time it's gone after pieces of an asteroid. Japan has accomplished it twice, but in tiny amounts.

Scientists described Monday's departure from Bennu's neighborhood as bitter-sweet.

"I've been working on getting a sample back from an asteroid since my daughter was in diapers and now she's graduating from high school, so it's been a long journey," said NASA project scientist Jason Dworkin.

Added Lauretta: "We have gotten used to being at Bennu and seeing new and exciting images and data coming back to us here on Earth."

Osiris-Rex was already

nearly 200 miles from the solar-orbiting Bennu when it fired its main engines Monday afternoon for a fast, clean get-away.

Colorado-based flight controllers for spacecraft builder Lockheed Martin applauded when confirmation arrived of the spacecraft's departure: "We're bringing the samples home!"

Scientists hope to uncover some of the solar system's secrets from the samples vacuumed last October from Bennu's dark, rough, carbon-rich surface. The asteroid is an estimated 1,600 feet wide and 4.5 billion years old.

Bennu — considered a broken chunk from a bigger asteroid — is believed to hold the preserved building blocks of the solar system. The returning pieces could shed light on how the planets formed and how life arose on Earth. They also could improve Earth's odds against any incoming rocks.

Although the asteroid is 178 million miles away, Osiris-Rex will put another 1.4 billion miles on its odometer to catch up with Earth.

The SUV-size spacecraft will circle the sun twice before delivering its small sample capsule to Utah's desert floor on Sept. 24, 2023, to end the more than \$800 million mission. It launched from Cape Canaveral in 2016.

The precious samples will be housed at a new lab under construction at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, already home to hundreds of pounds of lunar material collected by the 12 Apollo moonwalkers from 1969 to 1972.



The Downtown Wabash Farmers' Market will kick off its 2021 season from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 15 in the Honeywell Center / Wabash Elks parking lot on the corner of Cass and Market St.

Downtown Wabash Farmers' Market kicks off Saturday

Vendor applications are still being accepted for 2021 season

STAFF REPORT

The Downtown Wabash Farmers' Market will kick off its 2021 season from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 15 in the Honeywell Center/ Wabash Elks parking lot on the corner of Cass and Market St., according to a press release.

The 2021 Market will occur from 8 a.m. to noon every Saturday through Saturday, Sept. 26. Downtown Wabash Farmers' Market is a program of Wabash Marketplace.

"It will be great to see folks out and about shopping with local vendors at this year's Farmers' Market," Market Coordinator Dan Bickel said. "Our vendors are excited to mingle with shoppers and share their variety of prod-

ucts during this continued downtown Wabash tradition."

Vendors participating in the 2021 Market will feature handmade, homemade and homegrown items including fresh produce, meats, dairy products, home goods, plants, arts and artisan wares. The Market is excited to accept SNAP, WIC and Senior Farmers Market Vouchers at select vendor booths. The Farmers' Market is also pet-friendly and tobacco-free.

The 2021 Market Vendors include Wesson's Canine Bakery, Hill N Dale Farm, My Dad's Sweet Corn, Arc of Wabash County, Bizzy Bees, RiverRidge Farm, Cordes Berry Farm, Sisters Jam & Jelly, Sherry's Simple Sweets, Carpenter Creations, Charlie's Hoops & Coops/Eggboys, Morning Glories, R&P Bling, Small Onion Studio, Jimmy Langford and Emmett's Paddy Wagon.

Shoppers are invited to experience more than vendor offerings at the 2021 Market. Additional offerings include live music, food trucks, family-friendly activities and demonstrations, and more.

Vendors are still being accepted for full-season, half-season and one-time rates. To become a vendor for the 2021 Market, visit WabashMarketplace.org/farmers-market or call 260-563-0975.

Wabash Marketplace will continue to monitor the current state of the pandemic and will adapt where necessary for the safety of vendors and shoppers. Current CDC guidelines do not require but recommend face coverings at the 2021 Market events. For more information about current COVID-19 guidelines from the CDC, visit cdc.gov.

For more information about Downtown Wabash Farmers' Market, visit WabashMarketplace.org/farmers-market.

Alpha Zeta Chapter of DKG Society International holds May meeting

The next meeting will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 18

STAFF REPORT

Alpha Zeta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (DKG), a women educators' society, met at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 1, 2021 for a virtual meeting that was opened by President Sue Corbin with 20 members present, according to Nancy Kolb.

Members of the Alpha Zeta Chapter work or live in Grant, Huntington, Wabash and Whitley counties.

The opening thought given by Mary Catherine Palmer was based on the Chip Gaines book, "Capital Gaines: Smart Things I Learned Doing Stupid Stuff." Karen Bandelier led in an opening prayer.

Grants-in-Aid was awarded to Whitney Shelton of Whitley County and Tabitha Smith of Huntington County.

Kolb said Vicki Hinen gave a "very informative and interesting" program on the history of the founders and the founding of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society which took place on May 11, 1929, in Austin, Texas.

"The 11 ladies were a diverse group and in light of the strict code of conduct for teachers at that time, their accomplishments are all the more remarkable. More information is available on the DKG website," said Kolb.

A Ceremony of Remembrance was presented by Mary Catherine Palmer, with moving tributes to Alpha

Zeta members, Peggy Ransom and June Everitt who have passed away. Members joined in a responsive reading in their memory and listened to a musical performance of the song, "We'll Remember." Members shared memories of Peggy and June. "Goodbye, My Friend," sung by Linda Ronstadt was played. Mary Catherine closed the ceremony with prayer.

In the business portion of the meeting, the secretary's and treasurer's reports were approved and reminders were given to pay dues and make contributions as members choose to the scholarship fund, grants-in-aid fund, chapter project of food drives in the four counties, International Project Fund and the Celebration Fund.

Correspondence included six letters of best wishes and membership status. Three members' resignations were accepted with regret.

Because of a move to Texas, Natheda Mills resigned as second vice president.

"She will remain as a member and was thanked for all her hard work," said Kolb.

Six members shared celebrations in their lives, including Samantha Sutorius who has completed her doctoral studies and received congratulations.

Personal Growth and Development Committee Chair Karen Kinney reported 45 responses to the Stay Connected question, answers to which are being shared in the chapter newsletter. Kolb said she also shared a delightful book, "I'm a Frog."

Ann Ambler was installed as president for the rest of

the biennium and Karen Miller was installed as second vice president.

Announcements were the DKG Indiana State Conference on Saturday, June 12; the International Conference from Wednesday, July 7 to Saturday, July 10 in Portland, Oregon; the International State Conference from Wednesday, July 21 to Saturday, July 24 in San Antonio, Texas; and the Fall Arts Retreat on Saturday, Nov. 13 in Noblesville.

The Hostess Committee of Karen Bandelier, Mary Lou Fries, and Mary Catherine Palmer received thanks, and Mary Catherine Palmer gave closing thoughts from Louisa May Alcott.

The next meeting will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, with the Hostess Committee being Brenda Landis, Nancy Kolb and Ann Ambler.

The meeting was adjourned with the singing of the Delta Kappa Gamma song at 11:50 a.m.

Art Studio Trolley No. 85 tour on sale

Create with clay and glass from 9 a.m. to noon on June 12

STAFF REPORT

Visit Wabash County has announced tickets are on sale for the Art Studio Trolley No. 85 Tour, according to marketing manager Whitney Millspaugh.

"Channel your creative side and enjoy a hands-on experience tour featuring two very talented local artists," said Millspaugh. "You'll have the exclusive chance to explore the studios of Sue Scamihorn and Susan Stewart and create take-home crafts along the way."

The tour will take place from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 12, is \$30 per person, and will begin at the Visit Wabash County Welcome Center, 221 S. Miami St.

The two art experiences include:

Sue Scamihorn's studio to create with clay: Tour Sue's studio while her husband Mike demos the pottery wheel. "You'll get the opportunity to make a clay plant stake to keep as well as experience throwing clay on a mini pottery wheel," said Millspaugh.

Susan Stewart's studio for glass firing: Susan will give you a tour of her glass art studio where you



Provided photo

Visit Wabash County has announced tickets are on sale for the Art Studio Trolley No.85 Tour.

will experience the firing process. "Have fun making a glass sun-catcher to take home and enjoy," said Millspaugh.

Millspaugh said Visit Wabash County has also partnered with Modoc's Market to provide locally roasted coffee during the tour, "as well as one of our favorite local chefs, Bailey Sewell from Bailey's Pizza Parlor, who will be offering homemade turnovers and quiche."

"Visit Wabash County's Tourism Manager and your tour guide, Jennifer Long-Dillon, will be creating a specialty cocktail for you to enjoy at the second art studio. Grab a group of friends and family and sign

up for this one-of-a-kind, hands-on Trolley No.85 tour," said Millspaugh.

Tickets for the Art Studio Trolley No.85 Tour are \$30 per person and are all-inclusive.

Payment is due upon registration. Visit Wabash County would like to thank Wabash County Solid Waste Management District for sponsoring this tour and J.M. Reynolds Oil Company, Inc. for being the official fuel provider for Trolley No. 85.

To purchase tickets online, visit www.visitwabashcounty.com/trolley-tours, stop in the Welcome Center at 221 S. Miami St., or call 260-563-7171.



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